MINUTES.

REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

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OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod

OF IRELAND,

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING IN LONDONDERRY,

JUNE, 1874.

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1874.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod in Ireland.

SESSION I.

LONDONDERRY, MONDAY, 15TH JUNE, 1874, SEVEN O'CLOCK, P.M. **Constitution.**

THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND met; and, after a discourse from the words in Phil. iii. 8—"I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord"—was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The following is the Roll of Members:—

THE REV. JOHN W. MACKEOWN, MODERATOR. **Roll.**

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
John Hart.....	John M'Fall.....	Ballylaggan.
.....	.....	Cloughmills.
Jas. D. Houston, A.B.*	Robert Nevin*	Coleraine.
James Brown.....	Wm. Y. Patterson....	Dervock & Ballymoney
Isaac Thompson, A.M*	Robert Boyd — *Alternate*, Jas. Stewart.	Drimbolg.
.....	Allan Conway*.....	Garvagh.
James Dick, D.D.....	Samuel Clugston* ...	Kellswater.
William Toland†.....	David Guthrie.....	Kilraughts.
Torrens Boyd.....	John Curry.....	Ringrash.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Alexander Savage....	Jas. M'Clelland Qua..	Ballenon.
Gawin Douglas.....	Thomas Henry*	Ballybay.
Hutchinson M'Fadden	.....	Ballylane.
.....	.....	Dromore.
.....	Thomas Smyth *.....	Dublin.
George Lillie†.....	.....	Fairview.
Wm. S. Ferguson.....	.....	Grange.
.....	.....	Lisdonnan.
Joseph F. Hurst.....	.....	Loughbrickland.
Alex. M. S. Lyons....	Robert Sturgeon*.....	Newry.
Thomas Hart†	.....	Rathfriland.

Roll.

EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Thomas Dick*.....	Samuel Graham*.....	Bailiesmills.
William Russell.....	.....	Ballyclare.
Josias A. Chancellor...	Patrick Burns.....	Belfast.
.....	.....	Dromara.
.....	.....	Killinchy.
Thomas Houston, D.D.	Samuel Cheyne.....	Knockbracken.
.....	.....	Larne.
.....	.....	Liverpool.
Robert Allen.....	.....	Newtownards.
James R. Moody†....	....	.....

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Charles K. Toland.....	J. Armstrong*—*Alternate*, R. M'Kinlay*	Bready.
John W. Mackeown...	William Gregg.....	Convoy.
James P. Sweeney....	William Philips.....	Faughan.
Robert Nevin.....	David Smyth.....	Londonderry.
.....	Robert Watson*.....	Mulvin.
.....	.....	Newtownlimavady.
R. A. M'Farlane, B.D.	James Blackburn.....	Stranorlar.

N.B.—The Rev. A. M. Moore, of Geelong, Australia, and the Rev. James Martin, A.M., M.D., Missionary in Syria, are reckoned members of the Eastern Presbytery.

Dr. Houston chosen Moderator.

I. Mr. Chancellor moved that Dr. Houston should be Moderator for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Mr. M'Fadden, and passed unanimously. Dr. Houston took the chair and addressed the Court.

Hours of Meeting.

II. The hours of meeting were arranged to be—from ten, *a.m.*, till three, *p.m.*; and from seven till ten, *p.m.*

Committee of Bills.

III. The Clerks of Presbyteries were appointed a Committee of Bills. They were instructed to prepare an order of business. To meet to-morrow at 9 *a.m.* It was intimated on the part of the Commission that it was considered desirable to have some time allotted for private conference. The Committee of Bills was directed to make provision for this in the order of business.

IV. Rev. J. Brown, Rev. C. K. Toland, and Mr. P. Burns, were appointed a Committee for inspecting Records of Presbyteries. To report at a future sederunt.

V. Mr. John M'Donald, Ruling Elder in Glasgow, being present, was invited to sit and deliberate.

Adjourned with prayer.

* Not present when the Court was constituted.

† Absent from all the sessions.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 16th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, Rev. J. Brown conducting devotional exercises.

VI. The Committee of Bills reported an Order of Business, which, with a little modification, was adopted.

VII. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Belfast, on the Monday after the second Sabbath of June, 1875, at seven o'clock, *p.m.* **Next Meeting of Synod.**

VIII. The Editor of the Magazine reported that the circulation continued to be much the same. He still felt the desirableness of having shorter and more numerous articles, so as to secure greater variety, and that members of Synod should furnish such from time to time. The following resolution, moved by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Boyd, was passed, *nem. diss.* :— **Report on Periodical.**

"The Synod, having heard the report of the Editor of *The Covenanter*, from which it appears to be in a satisfactory and healthy state of circulation, convey their thanks, and express their gratitude to the Church's Head for the favour shown to His servant in the efficient manner he has been enabled to advocate Scriptural truth in connection with a Covenanted testimony. The Synod renews its pledge to assist the Editor, by supplying articles for insertion, and by endeavouring to increase the circulation."

IX. A commission from the Scottish Synod to the Rev. Robert Wallace, Rev. John M'Kee, and Mr. Robert Proudfoot, Ruling Elder, as a deputation to this Synod, was handed in and read. Mr. Wallace was present and took a seat in Court.

X. It was resolved that the proceeds of the Scott Bequest be divided—one half to the Home Mission, and the other half equally between the Foreign and Colonial Missions. **Scott Bequest**

XI. At one o'clock Synod resolved itself into a conference on the state of religion and pastoral work, in accordance with an arrangement made in the Order of Business. Interesting addresses were delivered by several members of Synod.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 16th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, Mr. M'Farlane conducting devotional exercises.

XII. The Report of the Home Mission was read by the Secretary. It was moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded **Report of Home Mission**

by Mr. James Stewart, that it be adopted and published with the Minutes. Passed unanimously. The following is the Report:—

Report of Home Mission

HOME MISSION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1874.

State of the Funds.

The ordinary income of this Mission for the year, including the balance of £29 5s 9d, amounts to £360 6s 5½d. But this sum includes also the three following legacies, which are to be invested for the permanent benefit of the fund—namely, Mrs. M'Millan's legacy in connection with Kellswater congregation, £5; Mrs. M'Kee's, Rathfriland, £16 13s 4d; and Mrs. Chancellor's, of Knockbracken, £50. Deducting these sums there remain £288 13s 1½d available for the expenses of the year. These expenses have amounted to the sum of £290 5s 11d. The ordinary income for the year has been considerably less than the expenditure, not counting the balance. In the month of May, before that the additional contributions from Belfast and Donegal were handed in, the entire income of the Mission, with the balance from last year, was above £50 short of the necessary expenditure. In consequence the secretary issued a circular asking a supplemental collection on the 1st Sabbath of June, as directed by Synod. The result is that thirteen congregations have responded to the call, and sent in second collections, amounting to the sum of £44 5s 1½d. With other special contributions for the year, this leaves a balance in hands of the treasurer of £55 12s 4d to be carried forward to next year's account.

Expenditure for ensuing year.

The year on which we are entering, and which is now to be provided for, is likely to make larger claims upon the funds of the Home Mission than any that has preceded it. There is but one case in which the expenditure will be considerably reduced. On the 6th of May the Eastern Presbytery dissolved the pastoral relationship in the Larne congregation. While the people of Larne continue without a settled pastor, they fall back upon the previous grant of £10 a year, to aid them in keeping up supplies of preaching; but they have expressed to Presbytery their determination to put themselves in a position, as speedily as possible, to resume the full grant in aid of a settled ministry. And they are not without hope that an immediate settlement might prove advantageous to the Church. In the meantime the change in the state of this congregation reduces the expenditure by about £20 in the year. On the other hand, two congregations to which grants have been promised—Mulvin and Killinchy—have recently called ministers, and Garvagh con-

templates speedily following their example. If all these calls be sustained and accepted, about £100 will be thereby added to the liabilities of the fund. In this case a second collection may be required also in the coming year, unless a considerable number of our congregations contribute much larger sums for the Home Mission than they have been heretofore accustomed to do.

Deputations on Ministerial Support.

In accordance with the arrangements of last Synod, the settled congregations of the Northern, Eastern, and Southern Presbyteries, with one or two exceptions, were visited by deputations, and addressed on the importance of due ministerial support, and of increased liberality on behalf of the Home Mission. Dr. Dick, the Rev. James Brown, with Messrs. William Reid, of Newtownards, Thomas Henry, of Monaghan, and the secretary, served on these deputations. And Mr. John M'Donald, of Glasgow, in the readiest and most generous manner, twice crossed the channel to join these deputations, and rendered to them the most valuable assistance. It is impossible to compute at present the results that, with the Divine blessing, may be expected to follow the addresses delivered on these occasions. Suffice it to say, that in every case the earnest and hearty co-operation of ministers and elders was evinced in the arrangements that were made for the reception of the deputations. The attendance of the various congregations, even in winter, was most satisfactory, and, generally speaking, a deep and practical interest was everywhere taken in the subjects which were brought forward and urged upon them in the name of this Court. In several instances a considerable advance has already been realised, both in the amount of congregational stipend and in the contributions for the support of the Home Mission. We trust these will be made still more generally apparent during the ensuing year. If this committee be reappointed, it will endeavour to visit the congregations of the Western Presbytery at as early a period as can be made convenient.

It was stated by several members, that the visits of the deputation on ministerial support appointed at last meeting of Synod had done good. The Committee was continued, with instructions to visit, as soon as may be found practicable, those congregations which they have not found opportunity to visit already.

XIII. The Rev. John M'Kee, of the deputation from the Scottish Synod, appeared and took his seat.

Report of Col Mission.

XIV. The Report of the Colonial Mission was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Savage, seconded

by Mr. J. Hart, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows :—

Report of Col. Mission.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL MISSION FOR 1873.

Our Colonial Mission, not being a Heathen Mission, but rather a mission to the members of the Church scattered abroad, reports of accessions and extensions of an enlarged kind may not be expected. Our Missionaries do preach the Gospel to many who are practically heathen as well as to those who enrol in the fellowship of our Church, but the results of such labours in present times does not present the tangible fruits even that a purely Heathen Mission might be expected to do. The fruits of their labours may not be very appreciable, but at the same time real and important. God's Word assures us that diligent and devoted labour in the vineyard will not be without spiritual results. But the full disclosure of it may not be made at the time the work is done, nor even till the day of final declaration. We note the same laborious self-denied and devoted service performed by our brethren as heretofore, and though we hear not of the organization of new congregations, or even of much increase to existing congregations, yet "work done for God it dieth not." Maintaining the high Scriptural principles and enforcing the pure discipline of our Church, it may not be expected that abroad, any more than at home, we shall make much progress amongst the masses even of our nominally Protestant population. Besides, our few Missionaries are lost in a wide and extended field, for which their number is altogether insufficient, and that result is not attained which might be if their services were more concentrated.

Mr. Sommerville, jun.

We are sorry to have to report an actual loss to the staff of ordained ministers in the North American Colonies during the year. The Rev. Robert M'Gowan Sommerville, minister at Horton, N.S., felt it to be his duty to accept of a call from Cincinnati, U.S., and about the beginning of September last, was furnished with credentials by our Colonial Presbytery to the Covenanting Church in the States. Various discouragements met with in Horton tended to produce this decision. The change is to be deplored because of the loss to our ministerial staff of a young minister of talent and popularity. Double work is devolved upon our senior Missionary, the Rev. William Sommerville. The care of two congregations, lying 24 miles apart, upon one who has served his Master faithfully in the field for a period of 40 years, is more than could reasonably be expected. Yet, with that spirit of bold and manly Chris-

tian enterprise which has ever characterized our father, he willingly addresses himself to the weighty charge, still hoping that, in the good providence of God, help will arise from the Church at home. Report of Col. Mission.

The erection of a church at Wolfville by the instrumentality of Mr. Sommerville, junior, was carried through, but the liquidation of the debt upon it was not effected; and, after offering it to the Church at home, and to the Covenanting Church in the States, subject to the debt still lying upon it, and neither having incurred the responsibility, all hope of redeeming it for the use of our Church has been abandoned, and at present it is used as a house of worship by the Presbyterians of the province—although, so far as we are informed, a formal sale of it has not yet been made. There is a loud and clamant call from the field for help to be sent to our aged Missionary. There is a congregation of about 40 members belonging to the Horton house, besides some adherents; and Mr. Sommerville, senior, writes that the paucity of ministrations now enjoyed by them is telling destructively upon the congregation. Besides, to give to Horton part of his services, Mr. Sommerville was obliged to abandon two promising stations in the neighbourhood of Cornwallis. Very dispiriting lamentations are made about the final result in this wide field, if an energetic and devoted minister be not speedily found. Let us beware, lest as a Church we should labour, and other Churches enter upon the fruits of our labours. Wolfville.

Mr. Sommerville, senior, after a full and frank statement of the history of the Wolfville house of worship, and the reasons that influenced his son to leave the Church in the Colonies, says—"Next week" (date of letter, September 19th, 1873), "Robert leaves for Cincinnati, and I am left in charge of both Horton and Cornwallis, distant from each other 24 miles. My plan is to resume the labours of early days, when I was vigorous and the places open; and now, with wasted strength, and in the face of 'many adversaries,' I begin again." Mr. Sommerville, sen.

Regarding the Wolfville house of worship, he adds—"If the end of your inquiry be to ascertain whether it would be an object to redeem and retain it, I answer decidedly, 'No.' It is too late. The building would be a bill of expense to keep it repaired and insured to no purpose. Wolfville is now occupied by the Presbyterian Church of the lower provinces. It is too late to redeem the meeting-house. Let it not be too late to send us help; and send us a *man*, and a hearty and wise Covenanter. I want one with me for six months

Report of Col. Mission.

to begin. Other places need, but my situation is critical. There is a wide district to be occupied which I cannot reach. There is not much money, but many precious souls. Should I be taken away and leave the ground unoccupied, our brethren have just abandoned the field and given the labours of 40 years to those who have no sympathy with our cause."

It is unnecessary for us to travel over the different congregations and Mission stations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, since a statement of the condition and prospects of each was given in last year's report. Our correspondence with the Missionaries during the past year shows a powerful and determined opposition to the doctrines and principles of our Church by many around—the faithful uplifting of our Scriptural standard against the flood of error by our brethren—the endurance of trials and difficulties, manifold both of a temporal and spiritual kind—the consecration of heart and life to the Master and His cause in the face of all opposition, and a burning zeal to "lengthen the cords" and strengthen the stakes of our Zion throughout the land, that truth and righteousness may reign, and the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be established.

Mr. Stewart.

Our brother Mr. Stewart, in the same province writes—"Though we have little of vital improvement in our part of the Missionary field to communicate, yet gratitude calls upon us to acknowledge that the Lord is good and doing us good. Our Mission work has progressed during the past year much in the same way as usual. The state of the weather has been so favourable as to enable those who are accustomed to practice self-denial in performing journies to meet all their pulpit engagements. It is not always so in the winter season. . . . . The attendance at the out-stations is good—probably larger than usual. The people in general listen, so far as we are able to judge, devoutly and solemnly to the things that are spoken; and it is to be hoped that the Word, in keeping with the Divine promise, will not return void, but will prosper in the thing whereto it has been sent. We have ample opportunities of proclaiming the Gospel, of expounding the Truth as it is in Jesus, and of delivering lectures that bear on the improvement of public morals. In this way we are endeavouring to sow beside all waters, leaving the results to the great Husbandman, who can give the increase, and who has declared for our encouragement, that 'those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.' It would, unquestionably, impart great delight to us, were the Divine Being to give more frequently and more directly testimony to the Word of His grace, in the conversion of sinners, and in the increase of the

membership of the Church; but the glorious work of evangelization must progress. The truth is mighty and must prevail; and, believing this statement, we are disposed to come to the conclusion that our efforts, accompanied with the Divine blessing, will eventually contribute to the overthrow of the kingdom of darkness and the establishment of the kingdom of light." Report of Col. Mission.

From our brethren in the province of New Brunswick we have nothing new or striking to communicate. Mr. Stavely, St. John, after writing of a visit paid by him to the small congregation of Littleton, in the State of Maine, at the beginning of April, adds—"As regards my own position and prospects, there is really nothing new or interesting to record; neither do I think that any of our esteemed brethren will have much to add to former advices. We are all, each and all, busy, I believe, in our respective spheres of labour, but none of us, perhaps, is cheered with any such very gratifying symptoms of progress and revival as have at other times, and in other places, gladdened the hearts of those labouring in the same cause, and looking for their reward to the same Master." Mr. Stavely.

To give an idea of the privations endured by our Mission stations under the care of Presbytery through lack of preachers—Mr. Stavely writes that the congregation of Littleton, which he had just visited, and with which he had spent two Sabbaths, had not enjoyed the visit of a minister from the dispensation of the communion in the fall by Mr. S. until his return in the month of April. That is, a society consisting of more than 25 members and possessing a comfortable house of worship, able and willing to contribute according to their ability for the support of ordinances, had not a ministerial visit for a period of six months. During the winter months a prayer-meeting was held every Sabbath day in the church. But the want of public ministrations for such a lengthened period must be sadly felt by any congregation, and retard its prosperity as well as the progress of spiritual life in the hearts of Church members. Nor is it to be wondered at that such should be the infrequency of visitation by our brethren, when we consider that this station lies at a distance of more than one hundred and thirty-eight miles from St. John, the nearest congregation—when we consider the difficulties of winter travelling in the country, the fewness of our ministers, and the imperative necessity, especially in the case of a congregation like St. John, of having regular services in their own pulpit. Littleton.

Report of Col. Mission. Mr. Lawson. Mr. Lawson, as Clerk of Presbytery, writing 4th March, immediately after a meeting of the court, says:—"At our last meeting of Presbytery the question of ministerial supply was again brought up, and, as clerk, I was again directed to bring our necessities before you and the Synod. We are really distressed for want of help. Promising stations are slipping out of our hands because we cannot attend to them. Other denominations are likely to enter into our labours. Is it impossible for you to do anything for us? We again renew our formal and most earnest appeal for help."

Calls for Help Although these calls have been repeated for many years, both by our brethren in the colonies and by the secretary of this scheme, we would again renew them. Sure we are it would delight us all, could we enter in and reap a more abundant harvest in the white field. We are slow and reluctant to acknowledge that our cries will all be in vain. We would again appeal to the licentiates and ministers of our Church, and to our people, who are privileged to maintain the Lord's treasury. Let us organize a more extensive agency in this open and inviting field. The grey hairs are gathering upon our missionaries, and some of them begin to feel incompetent for the wide-spread field hitherto traversed by them, and it would rejoice their hearts exceedingly, and lighten their hands, could we supply them with some youthful help. Specially it would be an acceptable offering to Him who says to us "I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it, for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

AUSTRALIA.

Australia. At last meeting of Synod a memorial from one of the sessions of our Church was presented and read, urging upon us the duty of sending out forthwith a minister to labour in Melbourne, and also, if possible, another to New Zealand. A resolution was thereupon proposed, and unanimously agreed to, that a committee be appointed, with instructions to use all possible diligence in endeavouring to obtain a suitable agency, and report to Commission. The committee in charge of this matter have thought much about the possibility of carrying the above resolution into effect, and conferred with the Commission both at November and March meetings, and regret exceedingly to have to report no progress in the matter. The proposal seems beset with so many difficulties as to appear almost impracticable at present. The tone of the correspondence with our esteemed Missionary, Mr. Moore, who knows the nature of the undertaking from personal ex-

perience, did not tend to brighten our way. The difficulty of finding a suitable agent and the means of his support, with other obstacles which we need not mention, rather cooled our determination to prosecute this matter vigorously at present. A full and candid statement of the difficulties which would have to be encountered by the Church and her agent in obtaining a footing in Melbourne was made to us by Mr. Moore, whilst he rejoiced in the hope held out by the proposal of Synod, and says "there is much need for a faithfully-preached Gospel, a Scriptural worship and discipline, and a testimony to be lifted up against abounding evils." "But, he adds, "there is nothing here, and whoever comes has the whole to create. If a minister comes expecting nothing, and is determined to unfurl a banner for the truth in the face of all difficulties, he is the man that is needed, and his efforts will not be in vain, so long as he seeks to do God's work, and commits it to His blessing." Report of Col. Mission.

Concerning Mr. Moore's own condition, and that of his little struggling congregation, he writes after his communion in October last—"I have just finished the communion services. We had a very pleasant season, and I trust a profitable one, though the number of communicants was very small, owing to death and dispersion. We may well say—'By whom shall Jacob arise, for he is small?' If you succeed in finding a minister for Melbourne, I trust he may be bold and patient, as he will have much to try him in attempting to unfurl the banner of the Covenant in that city. Faith bids me believe that the cause will succeed despite of all difficulties, but appearances and dispiriting experiences say that it is almost hopeless. People out here say that a minister will not be supported; yet, when we observe in the list of the home congregations able and excellent pastors receiving £80 or so from a membership of 250 or 260, it looks as if things could scarcely be worse in Australia—only with this difference, that if he got a better pecuniary support, he would be without the moral support enjoyed amidst his large flock in the home country. What can we say, amid all the great and increasing difficulties of a pure Church, but this—'Arise, O Lord, and plead Thine own cause?'" Mr. Mocre.

We would rejoice if Synod, in its wisdom, should see the way to the practical fulfilment of the resolution of last year. If our motto be not onward and forward we must assuredly recede. It is necessary, not only for the sake of aggression, but the establishment of organizations already made, that we be equipping additions to our staff. The great want is more men and means. God's Spirit is able to supply us the former;

the Church is able to furnish the latter. Pray for the power that will set all in motion.

The consideration of the Report was deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 17th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, the Rev. J. F. Hurst conducting devotional exercises.

Colonial Grants. XV. The usual supplement was voted to the allowances made to the Missionaries in the Colonies.

XVI. On the motion of Rev. C. K. Toland, seconded by Rev. H. M'Fadden, it was agreed that the resolution to diminish grants to aid-receiving congregations under the Home Mission Scheme in a certain proportion year by year, should not take effect for another year, so far as regards old grants.

Trustees' Report. XVII. Mr. Chancellor submitted the Report of Synod's Trustees. It was deemed exceedingly satisfactory, and Synod desired to put on record an expression of their sense of their very great obligations to Mr. Clugston, the General Treasurer, because of the time and trouble expended by him in keeping the accounts so accurately as he does.

XVIII. It was moved by Mr. Mackeown, seconded by Mr. Boyd, and unanimously agreed to, that the £15 falling due to the late Rev. J. A. Smyth, of Drimbolg, from the Aged Ministers' Fund, at the 1st of May last, should be remitted to his executors.

Thanksgiving and Fasting. XIX. It was remitted to the Committee on Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting to publish a summary of Causes of Thanksgiving on their own responsibility, and to prepare and submit to the Commission a summary of Causes of Fasting, in order to have it published with the sanction of the Commission.

Days to be observed. The last Thursday of November was appointed to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving; and the last Thursday of January, 1875, as the day of annual Fasting.

Dr. Dick and Mr. Brown were appointed the Committee to prepare a summary of Causes for next year.

Report on Testimony. XX. The Convener of the Committee on the Testimony reported that additional sections for the Historical Part had been prepared and printed, and some copies forwarded to each of the Sessions in the Church, with a request that a written report on the document should be sent in to the present meeting of Synod.

Report on Testimony.

These reports were now called for. There were only five written reports given in. There were verbal reports from a number of the Sessions. From these it appeared that about one-half of the Sessions in the Church expressed a general approbation. In regard to the remaining half, there was either no report, or a statement that the document had not been formally submitted to the Session. Although no disapprobation was expressed by any one in respect to any sentiment in the document, yet it was the opinion of several members of Synod that it was susceptible of considerable improvement in form. It was accordingly moved by the Rev. Thomas Dick, and seconded by the Rev. H. M'Fadden, "That the additional portion of the Historical Testimony be remitted to the following committee, viz.:—Dr. Dick, Dr. Houston, Mr. Russell, Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Nevin, (Dr. Dick, *Convener*)—and that this committee be instructed by Synod to mature the document as they may be able."

As an amendment to this it was moved by Mr. Clugston, and seconded by the Rev. J. D. Houston—"That, as the majority of the Sessions have approved of the Overture in general, this Synod do now proceed to read and to amend the Overture, before taking further steps towards its publication."

After lengthened discussion, the motion and amendment were put to a vote, when the motion was carried.

Against this decision Mr. Chancellor and Dr. Houston desired their dissent to be recorded.

Report of Southern Presbytery.

XXI. The Report of the Southern Presbytery was read as follows:—

REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

The Southern Presbytery report that they have held four meetings since last annual meeting of Synod.

State of Religion.

The appointed days of thanksgiving and humiliation have been observed, and the Sacrament of our Lord's Supper has been dispensed twice in all our congregations.

The missionary stations of Dromore and Lisdonnan have been receiving the usual supply of preaching. Good results have followed the increased amount of preaching granted to the station in Dublin by the arrangement of last Synod, and the people anxiously desire the ministrations of a fixed pastor.

The various collections appointed by this court have been regularly taken up, and Synod's deputation on the subject of ministerial support and Christian beneficence has visited the majority of our congregations, with the most salutary effects.

Report of Southern Presbytery. We have reason to hope that our people are abounding more in the grace of liberality, and are realizing more and more the duty of enabling "those who stand by the altar to live of the things of the altar." All our self-supporting congregations, with one exception, have reached the sum of £100 per annum, and the congregation of Newry have spontaneously raised their minister's stipend to £120 per year.

The subject of Temperance has been under our consideration from time to time, and we have pleasure in recording that the cause is making hopeful progress among our people.

Licence, Mr. W. Scott. At the August meeting Mr. William Scott, after the usual trials, was licensed to preach the Gospel, and has from that time till the present been labouring with acceptance.

We regret to record that we have at present no student under our care.

Presbytery nominate the Revs. A. M'L. Stavely Lyons and Gawin Douglas members of Commission for the ensuing year.

A. M. S. LYONS, *Moderator.*
GAWIN DOUGLAS, *Clerk.*

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 17th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, the Rev. John Hart conducting devotional exercises.

XXII. A commission to Mr. John Caldwell, Ruling Elder, as a delegate to this Synod, from the Synod of the United States of North America, was put in and read. Mr. Caldwell was present and took a seat in court.

Report of E. Presbytery XXIII. The Report of the Eastern Presbytery was read as follows:—

REPORT OF THE EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

The Eastern Presbytery report that, since last Synod, they have held nine meetings, one of them a visitation of the Belfast congregation. The organization of the congregation for all congregational purposes is very complete, and all the office-bearers, in their several places, are performing their duties very efficiently. Religion seems to prosper, and the power thereof to be felt among the people. The steady increase of its membership is also very satisfactory.

State of Religion.

The ordinances have been dispensed and waited on as usual in our congregations, and, it is hoped, with no less salutary effects than hitherto.

In accordance with the instructions of Synod, the congregations in our bounds were generally visited by deputations,

who delivered instructive and effective addresses on ministerial support, which were attentively listened to, and, it is hoped, duly appreciated, and will produce satisfactory results. Report of E. Presbytery

The instruction of Synod with reference to the Temperance Reformation was carried out in most of our congregations.

The days of thanksgiving and fasting appointed by Synod were observed as usual, and the collections for the several schemes were taken at the appointed times.

On the 1st October Mr. Wm. J. Maxwell was licensed to preach the Gospel. Licence, Mr. Maxwell.

The pastor of Larne congregation having applied to Presbytery seeking to be released from the charge of the congregation, chiefly on the ground of the state of his health, and the congregation having at length acquiesced in the application, Presbytery, consequently, did, at their meeting held at Larne on the 7th May, dissolve the pastoral relation between the Rev. James R. Moody and the Larne congregation. Since that time the congregation has been receiving supplies, and appointments have been given to Mr. Moody. This little congregation, most of whom have acceded to us from other communions, have, through many trials, manifested a high appreciation of the principles of this Church. Though subject to many discouragements, they continue steadfast in their profession, and have a claim on the sympathy and favourable consideration of Synod. Disannexion, Larne.

At a meeting held on the 16th February a deputation waited on Presbytery. It represented a large number of persons that had formerly been members of the First Presbyterian Congregation of Dromara. They had a short time before held a public meeting, and at this meeting resolutions were adopted, unanimously declaring—first, their formal disannexion from the General Assembly on the ground of alleged grievances; secondly, their resolve to apply to the Reformed Presbyterian Church to take them under their care and send them supplies. To that effect, at said meeting, the deputation was appointed to bring their memorial before the Eastern Presbytery. The people represented by the deputation constitute a very large majority of the large and respectable congregation of First Dromara. The Presbytery, having received their papers from the deputation, addressed to them a number of questions respecting their motives for taking the course they were pursuing, and of their knowledge and approval of the principles of this Church, and, having received satisfactory answers, the prayer of the memorial was granted, and a committee of Presbytery was appointed to meet the people from time to time to instruct them, especially in the Case of Dromara.

Report of E. Presbytery

distinctive principles and usages of this Church. This people have received regular supplies of preaching since, and the large house of worship was generally well filled with a respectable, orderly, and attentive congregation. The committee of Presbytery has met with the people twice. The first meeting was held on the 9th of March. At that meeting the forms of ministerial and Christian communion were read and explained. The people were also instructed on the relation of this community to the Government, her principles in regard to secret societies, and our usages in regard to family religion and social worship. Approval was expressed by a show of hands. The next meeting of committee was held on the 18th March. At this meeting the people were further instructed. 269 sent in their names as candidates for admission to the membership of this Church. Many, however, did not know that it was required of them, in order to admission, to submit to examination, but of the candidates present eighty-four were examined and received. There is another aspect of this case, which has been the subject of comment in the Press. It may, therefore, be expedient briefly to state, so far as we can, how matters stand in reference to the church property. The meeting-house cost about £2,000 and the manse about £600. Of the former sum the congregation raised about £1,600; of the latter, about £400. The majority, up to the time of their application to us, held possession of the property, and for several months it had been locked up. Presbytery told the deputation from the first that it would not meddle with the property, that they should take the advice of an able counsellor, and, if it should be against them, they should immediately give up the property to the minority adhering to the Assembly. This has now been done, but not so promptly as Presbytery desired. It was not easy to convince them that their opponents would insist on their totally divesting themselves of a property, to the creation of which they had so largely contributed, and with a lease which seemed to them to secure the benefit of it for all time to the Presbyterian Dissenters of Dromara, without reference to connection with any particular denomination of Presbyterians. The people were extremely unwilling to surrender it until it would be wrested from them by law, or at all events demanded in a legal form by some party better entitled to hold it. When the Presbytery sent supplies, the people were to provide for their accommodation for public worship as they could. A member of the deputation said he would give such accommodation as he could. The minister who filled the first appointment was, however,

Case of Dromara.

shown into the meeting-house, and occupied the pulpit. A protest was made by a minister of the General Assembly, which he did not regard, but proceeded with the services. No additional inconvenience was experienced by the minority, as they had, for months before we had anything to do with the matter, been worshipping in a separate building fitted up for the purpose. On the other hand, in the winter it would not only have been very inconvenient, but also very unsafe for many in a congregation of eight or ten hundred people to worship on the hill side. That inconvenience has now been accepted, and would have been much sooner had Presbytery's advice been taken. As it is, by their submission they have avoided an expensive law suit, but by holding on so long they have incurred a very considerable expense that might have been avoided. This has not, however, caused them to falter in their purpose. They express their determination immediately to set about providing church accommodation for themselves. What their hand finds to do we believe will be prosecuted with energy, and we have no doubt they will find many to sympathize with them, and afford them substantial aid in their undertaking.

Report of E. Presbytery

Moderation in a call took place in Killinchy Congregation on the 9th inst. Mr. Matthew Hodge, licentiate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland, was the object of the people's unanimous choice.

Call from Killinchy.

XXIV. The Report of the Northern Presbytery was read as follows :—

Report of N. Presbytery

REPORT OF THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

The Northern Presbytery report that, since last meeting of Synod, they have held five meetings. The ordinances of religion have been observed by the congregations with the usual regularity, and we trust not without some evidences of the gracious presence of the Divine Spirit. The vacant congregations and mission stations under the care of Presbytery have received as large an amount of preaching as practicable.

On the 29th December last the Rev. James A. Smyth, senior pastor of Drimbolg, died, at his residence, Lakeview, near Portglenone. The Master was pleased to continue him to a good old age, honoured him much in the upbuilding of His Church, and gave him great peace and hope in his death.

Death of Mr. Smyth.

During the year moderation in a call was granted to the congregation of Garvagh, which issued unanimously in favour of Mr. William Dick, A.M., which call, presented to him in due course, was declined. This congregation has been re-

Garvagh.

Report of N. Presbytery

ceiving full supplies of preaching, and again, at our meeting in May, sought for a moderation, which was granted for the 15th June. The Moderator on the day appointed, however, did not find the people in a prepared state for going on with the moderation.

Bushmills.

A number of families belonging to Ballymoney and Dervock congregation memorialized Presbytery at our autumn meeting for occasional preaching to be granted to the house of worship situated in the town of Bushmills, engaging to raise the sum of £10 annually for this end, and praying Presbytery to recommend the station to the Commission for the usual proportion of expenses allowed in such cases. To this prayer the Presbytery acceded, and, by some assistance from the Home Mission Fund, monthly preaching has been enjoyed in this place during the year.

Some steps have been taken by the united congregation of Ballymoney and Dervock to qualify for obtaining a fixed pastor in each pulpit, but as yet matters are not sufficiently matured for a formal separation. It is hoped, however, that the movement will not terminate till this desirable end be attained.

Ministerial Support.

Most of the congregations in our bounds have been favoured with the visitation of a deputation on the subject of ministerial support, according to arrangement made at last Synod. The deputations were cordially received in each congregation, and some progress in the discharge of this duty has resulted in most cases. Still, some of our largest congregations are far below their ability and the necessities of the present times. It is hoped, however, that a stimulus has been given to the movement that will yet produce more tangible fruits.

Students.

Presbytery has under its care Messrs. Matthew Neill and John Dick, A.B., students of theology.

JAMES D. HOUSTON, *Moderator.*
JAMES BROWN, *Clerk pro tem.*

Scottish Deputation heard.

XXV. The Deputation from the Scottish Synod was introduced by the Moderator. The Rev. J. M'Kee addressed the Court in a few words, and the Rev. R. Wallace at some length. Mr. Proudfoot was not present, owing to the state of his health.

Mr. Thompson moved that the thanks of Synod be given to the members of the Deputation, for the addresses with which they had favoured the Court. This was seconded by Mr. Savage, and when put from the chair was carried by acclamation. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of Synod to the Deputation in a few appropriate words.

The Rev. W. S. Ferguson, the Rev. G. Douglas, and Mr. Thomas Henry, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Deputation to the Scottish Synod next year.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VI.

Thursday, 18th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, the Rev. R. Wallace conducting devotional exercises.

Report of W. Presbytery

XXVI. The Report of the Western Presbytery was read as follows:—

REPORT OF THE WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

State of Religion.

The Western Presbytery report that, since last meeting of Synod, they have held four meetings. The means of grace have been dispensed, and waited on with the customary regularity.

Death of Mr. Cleland.

Presbytery have with pain and sorrow to report the demise of a young brother in the ministry. On the 8th of August, the Rev. Thomas Cleland, after an illness of only a few days, was taken away. It is inexpressibly sad to have to record such an incident as this. And to us it seems most mysterious that a minister, in the prime of life, who had so recently entered upon the work for which he had been making preparation laboriously and prayerfully for years, and who had entered upon that work with high hopes and bright prospects of usefulness, loved and honoured by the people of his charge in no ordinary degree, should thus be cut down so suddenly like a flower of the field. But the Lord seeth not as man seeth, and it becomes us to bow with submission and say, The Lord gave; the Lord hath taken; blessed be His name—and to endeavour to make a right improvement of the trying dispensation.

Call from Ne-Limavady

On the 26th of February a call was issued in the congregation of Newtownlimavady to Mr. W. J. Maxwell, A.M. This was presented at a meeting on the 6th of May, and accepted. It is expected that the ordination will take place some time in the month of August.

Call from Mulvin.

On the 6th of March, a call was issued at Mulvin to Mr. William Scott. Owing to unavoidable circumstances, there has been no opportunity as yet for presenting this call.

Retiring from the Ministry.

The Rev. J. P. Sweeney has expressed a desire to retire from the more active duties of the ministry. At his advanced age, and after such long and honoured service in the field of the Gospel, Presbytery think that this request should be complied with—that Mr. Sweeney should be allowed to retire, and that the congregation should be permitted to choose an

Report of W. Presbytery

assistant and successor. Presbytery, in the event of this being authorised by Synod, are unanimous in recommending that, on account of the exceptional circumstances of the case, Mr. Sweeney shall receive at least £50 a year, during the remainder of his life, from the Aged Ministers' Fund.

R. A. M'FARLANE, Moderator.
R. NEVIN, Clerk.

Mr. Sweeney to retire.

XXVII. In accordance with the recommendation in the foregoing Report, Synod were unanimous in granting liberty to Mr. Sweeney to retire, and to the Faughan congregation to choose an assistant and successor. They were also unanimous in sanctioning a grant of £50 annually to Mr. Sweeney, out of The Aged Ministers' Fund.

Dublin.

XXVIII. In the case of Dublin, it was moved by Mr. Savage, seconded by Mr. M'Fadden, and agreed to, that the sum sought, viz., the same as was granted last year, be granted to Dublin out of the Irish Mission Fund for the year, on condition that Irish Mission work be done, and that each minister who visits Dublin transmit to the Secretary of the Irish Mission a report of his own work in the field.

It was arranged that the Presbyteries should send supplies of preaching to Dublin in the following order, each Presbytery to supply for two or three Sabbaths at the beginning of the month—*Northern*, July; *Western*, August; *Southern*, September and October; *Eastern*, November; *Northern*, December, and so on as before.

Bushmills.

XXIX. On the recommendation of the Northern Presbytery, Synod sanctioned a grant of £5, for the present year, from the Home Mission Fund, to aid in maintaining preaching once a month in Bushmills.

Report on Temperance.

XXX. Mr. Chancellor read the Report on Temperance. It was moved by the Rev. J. D. Houston, seconded by the Rev. G. Douglas, and passed, *nem. diss.*—"That the Report now read be adopted—that ministers be directed to promote the cause of Temperance, in whatever way seems most suitable, in their own localities, so far as in their power—and that they preach on the subject on the third Sabbath of December next, sending the ordinary collection of that Sabbath to the Secretary of the Synodical Temperance Association, to cover whatever expenses may be incurred."

The Report follows :— Temperance Report.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE—JUNE, 1874.

The vice of intemperance, with its horrible train of evils, is steadily increasing in the land. Other interests, the most indispensable to the well-being of the country, are subject to temporary checks, and have their periods of prosperity and of decline, but the liquor traffic is always flourishing. Judges and magistrates, in earnest and well-considered words, denounce it from the bench as an evil of terrific magnitude and power, the source of nearly all the poverty, crime, wretchedness, and disgrace that afflict the country, and which render it a scandal and a byeword to other civilized communities. Still, it grows apace, and is every year absorbing to itself more and more of the life-strength of the nation, and is extending itself more systematically and domineeringly over the entire kingdom. Churches have been concentrating their attention upon this national vice as the most powerful antagonistic force by which their energies and resources for good are being constantly drained away and enfeebled, by which their efforts for reclaiming and evangelising the fallen masses are at every point most successfully counteracted, and by which the latent tendencies to evil and to self-destruction in our sinful humanity are stimulated and strengthened to their utmost capacity, and, under the pressure of these convictions, they have been devising and attempting various methods by which to abate, if not to eradicate, this tremendous evil. Yet, still, the deadly traffic goes on increasing, and drunkenness, like a resistless torrent, swells and surges defiantly, overleaping all barriers, and snatching its victims out of the purest Churches and most pious families of the land. Even legislative restrictions, hindrances, and penalties that would be considered ruinous to any ordinary trade, and which have repeatedly raised an indignant cry of injustice from all who are interested in the traffic, have failed in the least to retard its progress or to diminish its fell work of devastation and of death. Feeling the powerlessness of all these expedients to cope with a traffic that is so detrimental to all classes, and that is flooding the homes of the kingdom with unutterable wretchedness and sorrow, the women of England have approached the throne with an earnest remonstrance and memorial to the Queen, asking her special intervention on their behalf, in which they say— Spread of the Evil.

"The women subjects of your Majesty presume to address your Majesty concerning a matter of vital interest and importance to them as mothers, daughters, sisters, or wives. Woman's protest against it

Temperance Report.

They learn, with deep sorrow and alarm, that it is proposed, by measures now before Parliament, to lessen the restrictions which, by law, are placed on the sale of intoxicating drinks. They believe that to do this, especially as regards the hours of closing public-houses, could only be to bring heavy discouragement on the labours of the many societies, of the many clergymen and ministers of all denominations, and the other earnest workers, who have been for years endeavouring to arrest the progress of the 'national vice,' and thus to augment an evil which is threatening more and more to undermine the prosperity of the country. They see in this widely-spreading intemperance that which is adding greatly to their own sorrows and troubles, destroying the capacity for work on the morrow, trenching upon their home requirements, diminishing their home comforts, promoting discord, making them the victims of numberless outrages, visiting their children with the curse of hereditary disease and of neglected education, crowding with husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers the gaols, poorhouses, and lunatic asylums maintained at the public cost throughout your Majesty's dominions." Yet, in despite of all these efforts and remonstrances, from almost every class in the community, each succeeding return proves that this baneful traffic is still steadily increasing.

Unscriptural Legislation.

It is a cause of serious alarm and of deep humiliation in these Christian and enlightened kingdoms that successive Governments and both Houses of Legislation have shown themselves so incurably indifferent to the morality and safety of the people, as well as to the wealth and well-being of the nation, as affected by a traffic which has been specially licensed and controlled by them, avowedly for the purposes of public revenue. It is true, indeed, that legislation in general cannot proceed much in advance of public opinion. But in a Christian country, when the morals and well-being of the subjects, for time and eternity, are concerned, legislation should rather proceed on the ground of eternal righteousness and of the general authority of God's Word, and with the view of securing the highest interests of humanity and of the nation, than with the view of accommodating itself to a vitiated and corrupt condition of public sentiment. Besides, is not the present state of public opinion, which is considered to be strongly in favour of the liquor traffic and of the common drinking customs of the country, largely the result of the fostering legislation and undue patronage which the State has extended to this business in the past? What vindication or excuse can be offered for a nation professing to have its crown and its sceptre resting on the Bible, and making the

Established Church an essential and most prominent part of the political constitution, in direct contravention to the supreme law of heaven, and, even without any strong expression of popular opinion—such as it is—in its favour, legalising the sale of intoxicating drinks on the Lord's Day, while the sale of the commonest necessaries of life is forbidden? But not even the strongest expressions and demands of popular sentiment could prevail upon the present Government to legislate in the direction of common morality and of the sanctification of the Sabbath. The different Churches and parties in Ireland, almost without exception, have expressed their urgent desire that the Government would permit a measure to be passed into law for the purpose of closing public-houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks in Ireland during the whole of the Sabbath; but, although the great majority of the representatives of the people of Ireland voted in its favour, and it was sustained, and even demanded, by an immense preponderance of the public opinion of the country, yet it was refused by the Government and by the ruling majority of the English members of Parliament, in the most decisive manner. **Temperance Report.**

The "beer interest," which is so powerful in England, exerted itself to the utmost, during the recent contested elections, on behalf of the Conservative reaction which had set in, in the hope that the new Government, largely strengthened by its immense and unscrupulous influence, might yield to it the protection and the facilities which, from its own abhorrent nature, it is continually demanding. It was in response to this unblushing demand that Mr. Cross, the Home Secretary, framed and introduced into the present Parliament his new Licensing Bill. The design and object of this most miserable attempt at legislation is to give to publicans a little longer time each day in which to ply their nefarious traffic, the common and immediate results of which even Mr. Cross, in emphatic terms, deplored and denounced as he was introducing the Bill. It also relaxes some of the more stringent clauses of the Act of 1872 with regard to the inspection of public-houses and the punishment of defaulting publicans. It is to be feared that this piece of retrograde and corrupt legislation, with slight modifications, may speedily be passed into law. **Publicans and the Government.**

There are some who maintain that, since the Act of 1872 has not prevented the increase of drinking, it has been neutral in its operation, and the restrictions it imposes may be removed without loss to the public welfare. The following considerations will disprove these representations. Habits of drinking are materially affected by the facilities for obtaining **Restrictions beneficial.**

Temperance Report.

drink. The chief of these facilities are—1. The places where drink is to obtained. 2. The hours during which it is to be obtained. 3. The pecuniary means of obtaining it. In his speech on the introduction of his Licensing Bill, Mr. Cross rightly attributed the increased drinking, of late years, to an increase in the wages of working men, to the suddenness of that increase—a surplus of money coming into their pockets without a corresponding demand for its outlay in other directions—and also to the larger amount of leisure possessed by them. Concurrently with these causes, there have been, through the operation of the Act of 1872, a slight diminution in the number of places where drink is to be had, and earlier hours of closing. The case stands thus:—1. Slight and partial decrease of facilities. 2. Decrease of time in the night counteracted by increased opportunity in the day. 3. Large and very general increase of facilities. The balance of forces, therefore, preponderates largely in favour of drinking, and the great desideratum is the strengthening of the moral and legislative counter forces on the side of sobriety. The general testimony to the greater quietness of the streets in our large towns in the night since the adoption of the earlier hours of closing goes far to prove that earlier closing, while insufficient, in the face of other facilities, to prevent the increase of drinking, has considerably checked what would otherwise have been that increase. If increased leisure has been one great cause for increased drinking, the extension by legal enactment of the hours during which drink is to be sold is the promotion of drunkenness by Act of Parliament.

The duty of the Church.

As a Church, our manifest duty is to purge ourselves as thoroughly as it is possible to do from all connection with drunkenness and the drink traffic. From our pulpits and our Church courts there should go forth, from time to time, in the hearing of the whole community, no feeble or uncertain sound with regard to the duty of the nation, the people, and the members of the Church at the present crisis. None of the drinking customs of the present time should ever obtain countenance or encouragement, directly or indirectly, from any of the office-bearers or members of this Church. And whenever drunkenness presents itself within her pale, even in its earliest and incipient forms, it should be dealt with by the courts of the Church with such promptitude and fidelity as, with the blessing of our exalted Head, would be most likely to arrest and reclaim the offender before that iniquity has become his ruin, and to preserve others from heedlessly gliding into courses of indulgence which are known to be

fraught with so much danger and evil to the individual, and which are bringing so much scandal and injury upon the Church of Christ. While this enemy, from all sides, is coming in like a flood, and a professedly Christian Government is legislating only in favour of giving to it greater extension and power for evil, it behoves us, as a Church and as individuals, in our several homes and localities, boldly and fearlessly to lift up a standard against it. In this, as in every other good work, let us be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. **Temperance Report.**

One of the most distinguished philanthropists and politicians of the present time has spoken most wisely with regard to his own duty and that of all the Christians of the empire as to the best mode of dealing with this evil. He had during many years, he said, been induced to look very carefully to what was the mode in which this evil could be touched. He believed it would never be touched unless the thoughtful, serious men, beginning with the ministers of the Gospel, and all those who went to places of worship for other reasons than fashion, should regard the question of intemperance as one of the great evils they have to overcome. If the ministers in the churches would drink, a good many of their congregations would favour this evil of intemperance in consequence. There was among the Northern States of America a great amount of feeling on behalf of the temperance question. Yet their attempts have, to a very large degree, failed, because there was a large people outside this opinion of which he had spoken. He had come to the opinion that, unless the religious portion of this country would take up this question, there was no hope for it whatever. Lately, in Convocation, they had discussed this question. In Scotland it had been discussed. A large body of Independent ministers had taken it up. Among the Wesleyan body it had been taken up. But until all ministers took it up he did not think it possible to touch it at all. He believed it would be an advantage which no words in our language would be at all adequate to describe if those who tried to do anything for their fellows would try to bring about a current of national opinion in favour of abstinence from a source of so much evil. He urged the need of personal examples to remove the monstrous and measureless evils of the use of intoxicating drinks. Their business was in their own homes, to endeavour to change the course of opinion, and, if they united with other good men, he believed that there were no words which could describe, and no mind which could imagine, what good would result from their united efforts. **Only mode of reducing Intemperance**

It was agreed to suspend the standing order and meet for public business this evening, at six o'clock.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VII.

Thursday, 18th June, Six o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, Mr. Caldwell conducting devotional exercises.

XXXI. The following Resolutions on the subject of Temperance, moved by the Rev. J. D. Houston, seconded by the Rev. R. Allen, were passed, *nem. diss.*:—

Resolutions on Temperance.

1. "This Synod, regarding Intemperance as a fruitful source of physical and moral disease, and also viewing with no little alarm the ever-increasing spread of this evil, considers it a solemn duty to testify against it in the strongest and clearest manner.

2. "We hereby renew, in the most decided manner, our oft-repeated protest against the drinking customs of the age, against the whole traffic in intoxicating liquors, and against all those legislative measures in the nation that encourage an evil which is vitally hurting the well-being of the community, and putting many temptations in the way of the people.

3. "Believing that the Church of Christ is bound to purify herself from every appearance of complicity in crying public evils, and to call her children to complete separation from them, this Synod affectionately and firmly enjoins upon the ministers, elders, and members of the Church to discountenance in every right way the present pernicious drinking usages.

4. "Synod recommends ministers and elders of the Church to take special pains to instruct the young in the principles of true Scriptural Temperance, so that gradually a healthy opinion may be formed in relation to the great and clamant evil of Intemperance.

5. "Entertaining the belief that it is lawful and right to repress this evil by legislative interference on the part of the nation, Synod recommends the office-bearers and members of the Church to give, as far as they can consistently do so, their countenance and support to any wise and judicious measures which may be introduced to the Houses of Parliament, for the purpose of limiting or abolishing the traffic, and so taking temptations to indulgence out of the way of the inhabitants of the land."

Foreign Correspondence.

XXXII. A letter which had been sent to the American Synod was read, the Clerk explaining the circumstances under which he had transmitted it without waiting for the Moderator's signature, lest it should be too late for the meeting of Synod in Philadelphia. A letter in reply from the American Synod was also read.

Mr. Caldwell, delegate from the American Church, then addressed the Court. Mr. Russell moved, and Mr. Mackeown seconded the motion, that the cordial thanks of Synod be given to Mr. Caldwell for his presence and address. The thanks were conveyed in suitable terms to Mr. Caldwell by the Moderator.

XXXIII. It was intimated that there was a probability of Messrs. Chancellor and M'Farlane visiting the United States of America next summer; and it was unanimously agreed, that the Moderator and Clerk be authorized to furnish a commission to these brethren as delegates from this Synod, should they carry out their intention. **Delegates to America.**

XXXIV. Dr. Houston read the Report of the Foreign and Jewish Mission. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Allen, and passed *nem. diss.* The report follows:— **Report of For. and Jew. Mission.**

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 15, 1874.

In presenting to Synod the annual report of our Foreign and Jewish Mission, we are called to give a record of solemn trials, and, at the same time, of the Lord's special goodness and mercy towards His servants engaged in the work of the mission.

In the gracious providence of the Redeemer, our beloved brother Dr. Martin was sustained in health and vigour during almost the whole time of Dr. Metheny's absence in America; and, as the whole business of the Medical Mission was then under his exclusive management, he was enabled to discharge the duties of it in a satisfactory manner. He also continued to prosecute with diligence his studies in the Arabic language, and with such success that, early in last winter, he was able to address the Arab-speaking population with whom he was brought into contact in their own tongue. Shortly before Dr. Metheny's return to Syria, however, Dr. Martin had a severe attack of dysentery, which, for a time, laid him aside from all public work connected with the mission. As the past winter in Syria was more than usually severe, and Dr. Martin was necessitated to take several long and fatiguing journeys on the business of the mission, and was much tried from fatigue and want of due accommodation, this reduced him, towards the spring, to such a state of general debility that he was necessitated to intermit all labour, either of study, or instruction, or medical practice, and he was advised to travel, with the object of recruiting his health. He visited Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and other places of note in Palestine, and, after sojourning for a short time in Damascus, in the end of April he returned to Latakia, improved considerably in health. But, as the Syrian summer is found to be not a little trying to persons labouring under bodily weakness, it was considered advisable that Dr. Martin should visit his native country, in the hope that this might most speedily promote his full restoration. While we cordially sympathize **Dr. Martin's Illness.** **His visit to this country.**

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

with our esteemed brother in relation to this painful illness, and are deeply concerned that his valuable labours in the mission should, even for a time, be suspended, we would be stirred up to seek in prayer that he may realize all needed Divine support and comfort in the season of affiction and trial—that this dispensation may be over-ruled for the advancement of the good work to which his life has been devoted—and that he may be spared and strengthened for many years of successful labour in the service of his exalted Lord and Master.

The persecution of three Ansairiyeh Converts

The mission in Syria has been exposed to what has proved a severe and lengthened trial, in the enforced removal from their families, and afterwards in their enrolment in the Turkish army, of three Ansairiyeh converts, who were teachers in connection with the mission, and one of them a student of Theology at the seminary at Abieh. The names of these young men are Yusef Jedid, Selim Khalaefy, and Daoud Sulieman. In the month of September last, they were arrested at

Their Arrest.

their houses by the Turkish Governor of Latakia, and, after a form of trial, at which no accusations were preferred, except that they were Christians, they were subjected to privations and ill-treatment. They were brought handcuffed to Beyrout, and sent thence to Damascus toward the end of the month. After being chained, imprisoned, and beaten, they were brought before a court of judgment, urged to profess the Mohammedan faith, and threatened with transportation if they did not renounce Christianity. With calm fortitude they refused to deny the truth, and before their iniquitous

Their firmness in trial.

judges they avowed their love to Christ, and declared that they would not recant, even though they should be put to death for their faith in the Saviour. They were then imme-

Enrolment in the Turkish army.

diately drafted into the Turkish army. This was entirely illegal, as, according to Turkish usage, Christians are considered too low to be placed on a level with their Moslem fellow-citizens. These young men had paid the exemption tax for a number of years, and had thus been recognized as Christians. Since their enrolment in the army, to aggravate their trials, they were parted, and sent to separate barracks. They were often cursed, at times beaten, and deprived of sufficient food, and compelled to occupy quarters with low, beastly soldiers, who were constantly blaspheming and committing crimes too revolting to mention.

Efforts for their release.

As this case of persecution is a plain violation of the Edict of Liberty, and in direct contravention of the Ninth Article of the Treaty of Paris between the Turkish Government and the Western Powers, it excited the deep interest, not only of

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

the friends of the Syrian Mission, but also of many others, and strenuous efforts were made in various quarters to obtain the release of these teachers. The British and American Consuls in Syria applied on their behalf to the Turkish authorities, and brought the case under the notice of their respective Governments. The missionaries of the different bodies in Syria regarded the case as one of common interest, and held consultations, with the view of taking united action concerning it. The representatives of the Religious Tract Society and the Council of the British Organization of the Evangelical Alliance took measures for interesting the friends of religious liberty generally in the cause of the persecuted; and, chiefly through the energetic labours of Rev. Mr. Wright, missionary of the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church at Damascus, several influential religious periodicals and secular papers in England sought to inform and influence public opinion on the subject. The Mission Directors of the Irish General Assembly, the Council of the Evangelical Alliance, and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe brought the matter once and again under the notice of the British Ministry; and Lord Derby, the Foreign Secretary, addressed the Turkish Government, demanding their release. Though this was promised soon after, yet for months the teachers were retained in the army and deprived of their liberty. Even after renewed application to the Court of the Sultan by the British Ministry, they are kept, under various pretexts, under oppression, and subjected to repeated instances of ill-treatment. When Dr. Martin was in Damascus, two of the converts had affecting interviews with him, but the third was not permitted to leave the barracks, even for a short time, and occasionally they were still exposed individually to curses and blows.

Causes of Thanksgiving

Notwithstanding this severe trial to the mission, by which the missionaries were filled with anxiety and were called to much exhausting labour in behalf of teachers whom they greatly loved, there is abundant reason to bless the Lord for His providential goodness and special covenant favour to His servants when exposed to cruel persecution. The wrath of man has been made to praise the Lord, and the remnant of his wrath He has restrained. The living faith of these young men, who are among the first fruits of the mission, has been made manifest in the love, meekness, patience, and heroic fortitude which they displayed when exposed to a fiery trial. These humble confessors have been enabled to teach most impressive lessons, confirmatory of the power of the Gospel, not only to their fellow-converts in Syria, but also to the ministry and membership of the Church in these countries

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and in America, showing the privilege of suffering for the name's sake of Christ. The sympathies and prayers of many of God's people have been strongly drawn forth in behalf of these suffering brethren ; and we may not doubt that they have been already graciously answered, in the steadfastness and love to Christ and His cause, which they have manifested under manifold suffering inflicted by wicked men. The deep interest taken in these Covenanted witnesses by many excellent men of different religious professions in various countries has shown in a vivid light the excellence of the communion of saints; while the fact of the British Government being led to interpose in behalf of our oppressed brethren gives indication of the approach of the time when violence and oppression shall cease, when "Judgment shall return to righteousness, and all the upright in heart shall follow after it."

Dr. Metheny's return to Syria.

Amidst these severe trials, the agents and friends of the Syrian Mission have had many grounds of thanksgiving and humble rejoicing. Among these may be mentioned, first of all, the return of Dr. Metheny and his family, with Miss Crawford, to their chosen field of labour. After having brought the claims of the mission before several influential congregations of the church in America, and having obtained liberal aid from members of the church, Dr. Metheny was ordained as a missionary by one of the Presbyteries, and himself and wife and Miss Crawford again left their native country, with renovated health, to resume their important labours. During a brief detention in Liverpool, Dr. Metheny

His visit to this country.

made a hasty visit to this country, and addressed the congregations of Newtownards, Belfast, and Knockbracken, at the season of the annual thanksgiving, in the end of November. These addresses were so full of information respecting the work of the mission—they manifested such a spirit of practical wisdom and true devotedness—and gave such evidence of the blessing from on high resting on the labours of the mission, that they served to excite a very deep interest in the cause, and to draw forth largely the prayers and liberality of the members of the church on its behalf. It was matter of regret that Dr. Metheny's visit was limited to only two or three days, as, had it been possible for him to have met with other congregations of the church, the interest which his presence and able addresses would have excited must have tended to draw forth greatly increased support for the Foreign Mission.

Dr. Metheny reached Latakia towards the end of December. The arrest of the three teachers, it was feared, would operate to prevent the Ansairiyeh parents from sending their

children to the schools. These fears were, however, happily disappointed. On the re-opening of the schools, in the end of October, some 102 boarders were entered in the schools at Latakia and Bahamra, and, besides these, between 20 and 30 were entered in one of the daily schools. The severity of the winter and the poverty of the people had the effect of leading many of the ignorant heathen parents to entrust their children to the care of the missionaries, who, while providing for their bodily wants, would teach them the way of salvation. If the Church in America and in these countries would furnish the means, it is believed that the number of pupils in the boarding schools could be readily increased four or fivefold, and that thus the way would be widely opened for Gospel influence, operating not only on the children placed under Scriptural instruction, but also upon the parents, who are yet in a state of heathen ignorance and immorality. In a communication from Mr. Beattie, dated 23rd December, when referring to the increased number of pupils attending the schools, he earnestly asks—

Re-opening of the Mission Schools—Increased attendance of pupils.

"Are applicants, as last winter, to be turned away? Let us say no, and let us meet the emergency by corresponding efforts of liberality and zeal. We have endured a great fight for the first six months, and have maintained our position. We propose, therefore, no longer to stand on the defensive. Henceforth it will be our aim to make our work aggressive, to push our outposts beyond our present limits, and to plant the Gospel standard in the very heart of the enemy's camp. But, to effect this, we want *money* at command. Without it you take the sickle from the reaper, and allow the harvest to go to waste."

Dr. Metheny likewise states, in a letter written immediately after his reaching Latakia :—

"At present we have an excellent chance for disseminating the truth. I do hope that a spirit of liberality will continue to operate on the brethren at home, for Christ's kingdom is rapidly spreading here, and Providence is making all things tend to its advancement."

Among the pupils that entered the girls' boarding school in Latakia were two African girls who were formerly the slaves of a Moslem aristocrat of that place; but they ran away some two months before, and came to the mission, seeking American protection, and freedom from bondage. This occurred, strange to say, just after the seizure of the teachers. One of the girls who had been educated in the Mission School died among her relatives in the mountains during Miss Crawford's absence in America, with no Christian friend near her to offer her the consolations of religion and to witness the last scene on earth. Some time afterwards a child came for admission into the school at Latakia, and it was found that she knew the Lord's Prayer and had

Death of one of the pupils.

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learned a portion of the Catechism. When asked where she had learned these things, she replied, "The girl who died taught me."

FUNDS.

Funds.

The state of the funds of the Syrian Mission, as far as congregational collections and donations are concerned, differs but slightly from what it was at the close of the last annual Report, save in one particular—that of special contributions furnished by several congregations and liberal members of the Church for the support of the Mission schools. The whole amount raised throughout the Church during the year for the Missionary's salary amounts to less than £150. When it is considered that this sum does little more than meet our engagement to him as he entered upon the work, without taking into account the extra expenses to which he has been subjected from lengthened journeys on behalf of the persecuted teachers, and on account of his health and otherwise, and the increased expense of late of living in Syria, and that it is always an unalterable condition of undertaking a foreign Mission to provide both agents and pecuniary means for its extension, the present state of the funds cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Some of our large congregations have only sent forward, as their annual collections, so miserably small sums as *two or three pounds*, whereas the smallest in the church, by duly considering the claims of the Mission, and making provision beforehand, might easily supply more than this, and the larger congregations might contribute four or fivefold this amount. Our brethren in Scotland, who have not one-fifth of our number of church members, some three years ago, collected about £40 for the funds of the Syrian Mission, while last year they raised throughout their congregations £123 for the same purpose. Their zeal for the conversion of the heathen should provoke us to imitate them in the grace of liberality. In whatever light we view the matter, it is undeniable that the measure of our faith in the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the sincerity of our prayers, may be justly estimated according to the pecuniary offerings which we willingly present, and the sacrifices which we readily make for the attainment of this object.

Necessity for increased liberality.

Training of Converts for the Ministry.

The training of some of the converts of the Syrian Mission for evangelistic service, and for the work of the ministry, though seriously interfered with during the past year, by the trials to which we have referred, is still an object of earnest concern to the Missionaries, and is eminently deserving of the prayers and special support of the members of the Church.

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It is to be hoped that some of the promising youths, who have endured a great fight of affliction for the cause of Christ, will, after their enlargement, be excited the more earnestly to preach to their countrymen, whether heathen or Mohammedan, or Christian of the corrupt Eastern Churches, that Gospel which was their abundant support and consolation in the day of trial. Our manifest duty is to hold out all encouragement to those who shall be properly called and led to devote themselves to such an important service.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MISSION SCHOOLS.

Special Funds for the Mission Schools.

It is gratifying to be able to report that, throughout various parts of the church, a lively interest appears to be taken in the support of the Syrian schools. After Dr. Metheny's visit, this subject was taken up warmly by the members of Belfast and Knockbracken congregations. In Belfast congregation, besides various gifts furnished in clothing, &c., for the pupils in the schools, donations and subscriptions in money for the schools were furnished; and there is ground to think that a sum of not less than *forty or fifty pounds* yearly may be contributed in future by this congregation for the support and extension of the Syrian schools. In Knockbracken congregation one esteemed member gave a donation of *fifty pounds*, to be expended in supporting one pupil for a period of between five and six years; an aged elder gave recently a donation of *five pounds* for the same object; and a Ladies' Association, which was formed to raise funds for this specific object, has already collected upwards of *forty pounds*, with the expectation of being able to raise as much annually, and with the distinct understanding that this effort will in nowise interfere with other schemes of Christian benevolence, whether connected with the congregation, or the general schemes of the Church. The congregation of Kilraughts have agreed to furnish *ten guineas* per annum, for five years, for the support of one of the Syrian youths, who are receiving theological instruction with a view to the ministry. And the children of Mrs. Andrew and Mrs. James Allen, of Londonderry, having furnished a donation of *ten pounds* for the Mission schools in Syria, have intimated that they are desirous of continuing such a contribution annually, at least for some years. Were other congregations and individuals throughout the church to act in the same spirit of prayerful consideration, and of personal obligation, we cannot doubt that in a short time a large fund would be supplied for this important object. When it is considered that hitherto in the history of this Mission, the Scriptural boarding schools have been by far the most effectual means of reaching the hearts of the

Ladies' Association in Knockbracken Congregation.

Kilraughts Congregation —Contribution for training Converts.

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heathen youth in Syria, that from them converts have been gathered, who have adorned the doctrine of God the Saviour, and some of them have died in faith, and through them Gospel influences are brought to bear upon large numbers of parents and others, who are ignorant, idolatrous, and immoral, it will be seen that few objects are more deserving than this of eliciting the fervent, persevering prayers, and the enlarged liberality of the Church.

Liberality of the Church in Scotland.

Our brethren in Scotland, at their late meeting of Synod, unanimously agreed to appropriate *sixty pounds* per annum out of the funds of the Foreign Mission for the support of the Syrian schools, with the farther pledge that if, in future, a larger sum were required for this object, they would furnish it. They, moreover, resolved that, should our Synod agree to send out a second Missionary, they would willingly contribute their proper share of his support. We submit to Synod at its present meeting that, in consequence of the interest manifested throughout the Church in this object, and of the example set us by brethren in Scotland, a definite sum should be allotted out of the funds of the Foreign Mission for supporting and extending Scriptural schools in Syria. Such an allotment as £150 per annum might be safely made at first, this sum to be afterwards increased as the school system would extend, and its spiritual fruits be more widely reaped. Should Dr. Martin's health and vigour be restored, as he is now able to preach and converse in the Arabic language, and as the Mission at Latakia has been strengthened by the American church, he would be in circumstances to occupy some separate station in the wide district through which the Ansairiyeh are scattered; and then there would be speedily required the means for erecting and furnishing school buildings, and of supporting teachers and pupils that would much exceed the allotments which we have mentioned, both of our own Synod and of our brethren in Scotland. We should, however, rest in the perfect assurance that, according as we "devise liberal things, by liberal things shall we stand." We may sometimes learn profitable lessons in respect of self-denying liberality from those who are gathered from among the heathen as in other things. The following affecting incident in connection with the girls' boarding school in Latakia is mentioned in a letter of Miss Dodds, in giving an account of the communion services on the 7th of December last:—

"A box was placed on the table on the fast day, and an announcement made that contributions would be received for the purpose of *building a church*. The girls felt very sorry that they could not help

One of them said—'We have nothing to give, but we do want to help.' I told them that to any one who would do with bread alone for their supper one day in the week, I would give the money that would have gone to buy cheese, oranges, &c., to accompany it. It would have delighted you to see how eager they were. Every one agreed to the plan; so one day in every week our children will eat dry bread to help to build a house of worship. The mother of Miriam Judd, of blessed memory, said—'Yes, we can eat dry bread *twice a week*.'"

CONCLUSION.

Need of additional labourers.

One or two suggestions we take the liberty of offering, in conclusion, which have respect to the future extension and efficiency of our Foreign Mission.—First: Means should be forthwith adopted by the Church to furnish additional labourers for the field. Should Dr. Martin's health not be speedily restored, it would be every way trying that we had no representative of our two Synods in the Syrian field. Even should he be able soon to resume active labours, he would be greatly aided by having with him a fellow-labourer, and subordinate teachers, in carrying on the work of the Mission, especially if he were called to occupy a separate station remote from Latakia. If some of our licentiates and young ministers were not led to devote themselves to the service of the Foreign Mission, it were certainly worthy the attention of the Synod to use its influence and authority to put some of our promising theological students in training for this work. So soon as the Church shall be awakened to the unspeakable importance of the conversion of the world to Christ, and when the spirit of fervent prayer for the universal establishment of the mediatorial kingdom of Christ shall have been largely poured out, we feel assured that our ablest students and ministers will readily devote themselves to this enterprise of love and mercy, and that the Church will, without reluctance or reserve, yield them to this highly important and honourable service.

Mission to the Jews'

Secondly: When the Foreign Mission scheme was first started, the Synod entertained the idea of embracing in it, as far as practicable, a mission to the Jews, the remnants of God's ancient people; and our brethren in Scotland appear to have cherished the same purpose. Some contributions are, from time to time, made to the funds of the Mission expressly for this object. Hitherto in the field occupied by the Syrian Mission there has been no access to the Israelitish race, as none of them are found dispersed throughout that region. Though Dr. Martin, in one of his communications to the secretary, received a considerable time ago, suggested that the term "Jewish" might be omitted from the designation of the society, it may be proper, at least for a time, still to re-

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tain it. Should the field of the Mission hereafter extend, so as to reach parts of Palestine Proper, or Aleppo, where the late Dr. Dodds was located, there would then be access to numbers of the Jewish people. If in some time such extension shall not be effected, it may then be worthy of consideration whether our two Synods, if properly encouraged by the liberality of the Church, should not recognize their obligation to set on foot a separate mission to the outcasts of Israel in some one of the many places where they dwell collectively in considerable numbers. Meanwhile, the contributions, which are specially furnished by members of the Church for this particular object, might be held in reserve for future operations, while earnest prayers should ever be called forth for the salvation of all Israel, as well as for the coming of the Gentiles' fulness.

Mr. Simms to get £50 a year

XXXV. Mr. Thompson moved, and Mr. Graham seconded —"That the Rev. S. Simms should henceforth have his annuity from the Aged Ministers' Fund raised from £30 to £50." This passed, *nem. diss.*

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VIII.

Friday, 19th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, Dr. Dick conducting devotional exercises.

Com. on A. M. F.

XXXVI. The Committee on the Aged Ministers' Fund for the ensuing year was nominated, consisting of Dr. Dick, Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Rev. C. K. Toland, and Mr. Clugston.

Report on Theo. Hall.

XXXVII. The Report on the Theological Hall was read. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. C. K. Toland, seconded by the Rev. J. D. Houston, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows:—

REPORT ON THE THEOLOGICAL HALL.

For the first time during the twenty years in which our Theological Hall has been in existence, the Committee of Superintendence have to report that the Hall has been without a Student. There was one who might have made a partial attendance, and in his case it was arranged that the Professors should assign him a course of reading, with subjects for essay, and meet with him occasionally for examination and hearing his compositions. But the young man's engagements in other respects were such that this arrangement could be carried out only to a very limited extent.

Mr. Scott.

According to the remit from Synod last year, a meeting of the Committee of Superintendence was held in July, 1873,

for the examination of Mr. Scott, Student of Theology. The examination was sustained, and Mr. Scott was recommended to his Presbytery to be taken under trials for licence. **Report on Theo. Hall.**

It is much to be regretted that, taking the amount of collections as an index, the importance of sustaining our Theological Hall does not seem to be regarded as it should be by many in the membership of the Church. A very slight effort would suffice to put the Fund in a different position from that in which it has been for years past. This has been brought before the Church from year to year, but the only observable effect has been that, in not a few congregations, the collections have been steadily diminishing instead of increasing. We know not how to account for this, and we put it to the members of the Church, Is it quite creditable? Is the process of diminution to be continued? Or shall we not have, and that immediately, a turn of the tide? **Inadequate Support.**

The subjects for Intersessional Study announced for last year will stand for the present year. **Intersessional Studies.**

The Committee are of opinion that ministers individually, and Presbyteries, should try by all legitimate means to encourage young men to devote themselves to the work of the Gospel ministry, inasmuch as it would seem, from the operation of causes well understood at the present time, that there is reason to fear there will be fewer to contemplate giving themselves to such service. It should be remembered that we have an Education Fund, which can be drawn upon in cases where such aid may be found necessary.

The opening of the Hall was appointed to be on the Second Tuesday of November; and the close, on the Second Tuesday of March, 1875. **Time to open and close.**

The Committee of Superintendence of the Hall was appointed, consisting of the same members as last year. **Com. of Sup.**

XXXVIII. The Commission of Synod was appointed, consisting of the same members as last year, except that Mr. Douglas's name is substituted for that of Mr. Ferguson. To hold its meetings on the Second Wednesday of November, 1874, and the Second Wednesday of March, 1875. **Commission appointed.**

XXXIX. The Report on the Irish Mission was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Guthrie, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows:— **Report on Irish Mission**

REPORT OF THE IRISH MISSION, IN CONNEXION WITH THE DUBLIN CONGREGATION, 1873-4.

The arrangement of Synod in reference to the Dublin congregation has been carried out so far as was found prac-

Report of Irish Mission.

ticable. Supplies of preaching were sent in turn by Presbyteries as arranged at last meeting to the extent of 28 Sabbaths since last Synod. So far, however, as doing Mission work among the spiritually destitute, especially among Romanists in Dublin, was contemplated, the object was not reached. The time of stay in the city was too short for preachers to gain such a knowledge of the city as is necessary to doing Mission work; moreover, to most of us it is a strange work.

That it is impracticable we do not believe, though, considering the limited time of stay, and the fact that the time of the members of the congregation is so occupied that they cannot give the assistance which in other circumstances they could render very efficiently, it is almost so.

The families and adherents of the congregation have been visited, and such attentions as circumstances required have not been omitted. This, with the increased supplies and the interest in them manifested by the arrangements of last Synod, animated the people with a more lively hope of better times in prospect.

They are oppressed with what they so often see—young persons connected with this Church, who had been promising professors at home, fall off from their profession when they settle in Dublin. We do not know that there has been any marked increase in the attendance since last Synod. This, indeed, is hardly to be expected, short of the settlement of a pious, painstaking, and hard-working minister in the city. This is also deemed essential to undertaking Mission work there with any prospect of even very limited success. Mission work anywhere, but especially among and for the benefit of Romanists and Jews, must be prosecuted by faith, not by sight. The eye must be directed to the command and the promises rather than to results. Weak faith brings forth feeble, if not abortive efforts. Sustained, however, by the command of Christ and the encouragements of the Word, the Church should never falter or yield to discouragements in making God's salvation known to perishing men.

The people connected with us in Dublin have long stood unmovable in the maintenance of their profession. They have given many evidences of their attachment to our Church, and have a fair claim to the sympathy of Synod, and we have no doubt any aid that Synod can afford them in their endeavours to establish our cause there, consistently with the righteous administration of the funds of the Church, will be cheerfully given them.

We understand they are desirous to have Synod's arrange-

ment of last year continued. We expect they will send forward a commissioner more fully to place before Synod their wishes. May He that walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks preside in the deliberations of Synod, and lead them to a happy issue in this important matter! Report of Irish Mission.

XL. A communication, signed on behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of North America by the Moderator, Clerk, and Dr. M'Cosh, and addressed to the Moderator of this Synod, inviting the appointment of a Committee to correspond with like Committees of other Presbyterian bodies in reference to the projected Œcumenical Council of Presbyterian Churches, was brought up and read. The following Resolution on the subject, proposed by Mr. Chancellor, was passed, *nem. diss.*:— Proposed Pan-Presb. Council.

"As the Reformed Presbyterian Church has ever desired to recognise the fellowship of the household of faith and to co-operate in efforts for the extension and establishment of the kingdom of Christ, in consistency with adherence to the Westminster Standards, and the obligation of the Covenants National and Solemn League, we approve of the general objects of the proposed Œcumenical Council of the Presbyterian Churches, and do hereby appoint a Committee consisting of Dr. Houston, Dr. Dick, Rev. J. A. Chancellor, and Rev. R. Nevin, to correspond with other Committees on the subject."

XLI. The Report of the Committee on Records of Presbyteries was submitted, as follows:— Report on Pres. Rec.

"The Committee appointed to examine Presbytery Records report, that, so far as they have been able to examine these, they find nothing but what is accordant with the law and order of the Church.

"JAMES BROWN, *Convener.*"

XLII. Dr. Dick and Mr. Toland, sen., were appointed a Committee to prepare a Minute in relation to the death of the Rev. J. A. Smyth. The Minute was subsequently furnished as follows:— Death of Mr. Smyth.

"It is with deep concern we record the demise of Rev. James A. Smyth, pastor of the congregation of Drimbolg, which event took place on the 29th of December, 1873, when he had nearly attained his seventy-fourth year. The pastoral relation, reckoning from his ordination in 1827, extended over forty-six years, but the last four years of his life were attended with so much bodily infirmity and so great failure of memory, that he was unfit to discharge ministerial duties. He was an acceptable preacher, and in the earlier years of his ministry was accounted eloquent His sermons were strictly evangelical, and his delivery impressive. Well acquainted with the principles of the Church's Testimony, he displayed ability and fidelity in maintaining them. In a period of agitation in the Church, he and his congregation remained unmoved. In a congregation dispersed over many parishes, he was diligent and even laborious in his pastoral attentions. He was amiable in his domestic relations, and, so far as we can judge, evidenced genuine piety. It is to be hoped that the Saviour's gracious declaration has been realized to him: 'Where I am, there shall also my servant be: If any man serve me, him will my Father honour.'"

Death of Mr. Cleland.

XLIII. Mr. Chancellor and the Clerk were appointed a Committee to prepare a Minute in reference to the death of Mr. Cleland. The Minute was afterwards furnished, as follows:—

"After a period of several years, in which no breach was made in the number of our ministers, it has become our sorrowful duty to record the removal by death, not only of an aged father in the ministry, whose lengthened and honourable course of labour had, some time ago, naturally expired, but also of a young and vigorous workman, just entering upon what promised to be a career of more than ordinary activity and usefulness in the Church.

"On Friday, the 8th August, 1873, at Strieve Hill, near Newtownlimavady, died, of inflammation of the bowels, after a few days of intense suffering, the Rev. Thomas Cleland, B.A., in the 29th year of his age and in the 3rd year of his ministry. Endowed with superior powers both of mind and body, thoroughly equipped for the ministry by a preliminary course of concentrated and successful study, and actuated from the first by convictions and motives of the most abiding and irrepressible character, he entered upon his life-work with an ardour and devotedness that have seldom been surpassed, and which speedily brought in the first-fruits of what promised to be an early and abundant harvest. With his busy hands full of important occupation, and his mind already intent upon immediate plans of Church extension and improvement, yet placidly acknowledging that he was satisfied with length of days, he is suddenly cut down by the unshrinking hand of death, and is himself brought home, 'like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.' Such dispensations deserve to be frequently pondered by those who are now most actively and hopefully engaged in similar employments, 'for that is the end of all men, and the living will lay it to his heart.'"

Book of Discipline.

XLIV. The Committee on the Book of Discipline were in readiness to report. It was resolved that the Committee be discharged, and that the members of Synod be required to bring up at next meeting written suggestions for amendment on the document.

Serving on Juries.

XLV. The Committee on Serving on Juries reported, that they were unable to agree on a Report to Synod. From want of time to enter upon the subject at present, the Committee was continued, with instructions to bring in a Report in some form at next meeting of Synod.

Preachers' Appointments.

XLVI. The following Scale of Preachers' Appointments was made out till the end of November:—

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Mr. W. Dick	W.	E.	W.	W.	E.
Mr. Warwick.....	E.	W.	N.	N.	E.
Mr. Scott.....	S.	N.	E.	S.	W.
Mr. M'Knight.....	N.	W.	S.	E.	N.

XLVII. A Committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. J. D. Houston *(Convener)*, Rev. W. Toland, and Rev. J. Brown, to prepare a Report on Psalmody, to be submitted to Synod next year. **Psalmody.**

XLVIII. The Rev. C. K. Toland was appointed to prepare a Report on the Signs of the Times for next year. **Signs of the Times.**

XLIX. Synod's Treasurer was again authorized to disburse from the Education Fund whatever amount the Commission may consider requisite for the Theological Library. **Theological Library.**

L. On motion of Dr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Chancellor, a vote of thanks was passed to the members of the Derry congregation, for their hospitality to the members of Synod durthe Sessions. **Vote of Thanks.**

At two o'clock Synod was finally adjourned with praise and prayer till the Monday after the Second Sabbath of June, 1875.

POSTSCRIPT.

LI. The following Report of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Presbytery came too late to be read in Synod, but was received subsequently:— **Report of N. B. & N. S. Presb.**

REPORT OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

The Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia report that, during the past year, four meetings have been held, characterized by unanimity and brotherly love.

The ordinances of the Church have been observed with their wonted regularity, and not without some tokens of the Master's presence.

At the meeting of Presbytery at St. John, in September, Rev. Robert Sommerville applied for and received his credentials, with a view to connexion with the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in the United States.

At the same meeting Mr. John Toland, a ruling elder in one of our congregations, and a school teacher, received the sanction of Presbytery to exercise his gifts in reading and expounding the Scriptures in the locality of his residence. Since that time he has been labouring with acceptance.

Presbytery finally renew their application for additional ministerial labourers, convinced that, unless such be soon forthcoming, important stations must slip out of their hands.

ROBERT STEWART, *Moderator.*
J. R. LAWSON, *Clerk.*

Wilmot, N.S., 3rd June, 1874.

ATTESTED BY
ROBERT NEVIN,
Synod Clerk.

APPENDIX.

Synodical Officers.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

Moderator.

Rev. THOMAS HOUSTON, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

Professors.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY—Rev. James Dick, D.D., Ballymena.
ECCLES. HIST., PAST THEOL., AND CRITICISM—
Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*	Mr. James Mebarg.
Dr. Hurst.	Mr. Samuel Clugston.

General Treasurer.

Mr. Samuel Clugston, Antrim.

Auditors.

Mr. Samuel Aikin.	Mr. James Reynolds.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Dr. Houston, *Convener.*	Rev. W. Toland.
Rev. A. Savage.	Rev. R. Nevin.

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

HOME MISSION—Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.
COLONIAL MISSION—Rev. James Brown, Ballymoney.
IRISH MISSION—Rev. William Russell, Ballyclare.
FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.
THEOLOGICAL HALL—Rev. R. Nevin, Londonderry.

N.B.—These Secretaries (except Dr. Houston) act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

The Commission of Synod.

Commission.

The Moderator.	Rev. W. Russell.
Rev. J. Dick, D.D.	,, C. K. Toland.
,, J. Brown.	,, R. Nevin, *Clerk.*
,, G. Douglas.	Mr. S. Clugston.
,, A. M. S. Lyons.	,, W. J. Galway.
,, T. Houston, D.D.	,, James Reynolds.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, Thomas Henry.

Temperance Association.

Temperance Association.

President—Rev. J. Dick, D.D. | Secretary—Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

Committee of Superintendence of Theological Hall.

Committees.

The Moderator.	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Russell.	,, W. Toland.
,, Thomas Dick.	,, G. Douglas.
,, James Brown.	,, R. Nevin, *Convener.*

Committee for Foreign Correspondence.

The Moderator and Clerk of Synod.

Committee on Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting.

For 1874.

Rev. W. Russell, *Convener.*	Rev. Thomas Dick.

For 1875.

Rev. J. Dick, D.D., *Convener.*	Rev. J. Brown.

Committees.

DEPUTATION TO THE SCOTTISH SYNOD.

Rev. W. S. Ferguson. | Rev. G. Douglas.
Mr. Thomas Henry.

DEPUTATION TO AMERICAN SYNOD.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor. | Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, B.D.

COMMITTEE ON PAN-PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

Rev. T. Houston, D.D. | Rev. J. Dick, D.D.
„ J. A. Chancellor. | „ R. Nevin.

COMMITTEE ON PSALMODY.

Rev. J. D. Houston, *Convener.*
Rev. W. Toland. | Rev. J. Brown.

COMMITTEE ON SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Rev. C. K. Toland.

COMMITTEE ON THE TESTIMONY.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor. | Rev. Dr. Houston.
„ Rev. Dr. Dick. | „ R. Nevin.
Rev. W. Russell.

COMMITTEE ON SERVING ON JURIES.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.* | Rev. R. Nevin.
„ W. Russell. | Mr. J. Reynolds.
„ J. Dick, D.D. | Mr. S. Clugston.
„ J. W. Mackeown.

COMMITTEE ON AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Dr. Dick, *Convener.* | Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. C. K. Toland. | Mr. S. Clugston.
Wr. William Reid.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.* | Mr. J. Reynolds.
„ Dr. Dick. | „ T. Henry.
„ J. Brown. | „ W. O'Neill.
„ C. K. Toland. | „ W. Reid.
Mr. S. Clugston. | „ J. M'Donald.

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Synodical Appointments.

COLLECTION for Home Mission, ... 1st Sabbath, October.
„ „ For. and Jewish, ... 1st Sabbath, December.
„ „ Hall and Synod Fund,.... 1st Sabbath, February.
„ „ Colonial Mission, ... 1st Sabbath, April.
„ „ Irish Mission,..... 1st Sabbath, June.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Tuesday, 10th Nov., 1874.
Closes Tuesday, 9th March, 1875.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Wednesday, 11th Nov., 1874, and Wednesday, 10th March, 1875.

Day of Public Thanksgiving, Thursday, 26th November, 1874.

Day of Public Fasting, Thursday, 28th January, 1875.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Belfast, Monday, 14th June, 1875, at 7 o'clock, p.m.

MEETING OF PRESBYTERIES.

Times of Presbyteries Meeting.

NORTHERN—As occasion requires.

SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.

EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

WESTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August, and November.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA—As occasion requires.

				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SELF-SUPPORTING.	Bailliesmills	T. Dick	140	95	0	0	....			4	10	0	5	0	0	99	10	0	105	0	0	....		....
	Bailenon	A. Savage	212	100	0	0	1	10	0	5	17	7½	2	2	0	107	7	7½	77	2	0	....		....
	Ballyclabber	J. D. Houston	150	100	0	0	Manse.			6	17	2	3	5	5	106	17	2	83	5	5	....		....
	Ballylaggan	J. Hart	230	100	0	0	....			10	13	0	5	0	0	110	13	0	105	0	0	....		....
	Belfast	J. A. Chancellor	325	260	0	0	5	0	0	50	0	0	45	0	0	315	0	0	310	0	0	....		....
	Bready	C. K. Toland	150	120	0	0	5	0	0	7	4	0	5	2	2	132	4	0	129	2	2	....		....
	Convoy	J. W. Mackeown	200	100	0	0	3	0	0	1	10	0	1	0	0	104	10	0	104	0	0	....		....
	Creivagh	G. Douglas	180	100	0	0	....			12	5	0	9	7	0	112	5	0	109	7	0	....		....
	Dervock and Ballymoney	J. Brown	340	120	0	0	....			5	14	0	5	5	0	125	14	0	115	5	0	....		....
	Drimbolg	I. Thompson	182	110	0	0	....			9	5	0	5	7	0	119	5	0	115	7	0	....		....
	Faughan	J. P. Sweeney	170	70	0	0	....			4	17	0	5	15	10	74	17	0	75	15	10	....		....
	Keilswater	J. Dick	236	100	0	0	....			12	0	0	12	0	0	112	0	0	112	0	0	....		....
	Killinchy		36	65	0	0	....			2	10	0	2	0	0	67	10	0	47	0	0	....		....
	Kilraughts	W. Toland	172	100	0	0	2	0	0	9	5	4	5	5	6	111	5	4	105	5	6	....		....
	Knockbracken	T. Houston	230	100	0	0	Manse.			11	0	0	6	10	0	111	0	0	106	10	0	....		....
	Londonderry	R. Nevin	95	140	0	0	Manse.			20	0	0	8	0	0	160	0	0	148	0	0	....		....
	Loughbrickland	J. F. Hurst	130	100	0	0	....			2	13	8	2	8	0	102	13	8	102	8	0	....		....
	Newry	A. M'L. S. Lyons	117	120	0	0	....			4	10	0	2	10	4	124	10	0	102	10	4	....		....
	Newtownlimavady		240	125	0	0	....			2	12	0	4	2	0	127	12	0	144	2	0	....		....
	Rathfriland	T. Hart	240	90	0	0	....			11	0	0	4	0	0	101	0	0	84	0	0	....		....
AID-RECEIVING.	Ballyclare	W. Russell	90	50	0	0	....			10	3	8	10	0	0	60	3	8	60	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0
	Ballylane	H. M'Fadden	100	50	0	0	1	0	0	5	16	8	3	7	7	56	16	8	53	7	7	20	0	0	20	0	0
	Cloughmills		12	7	0	0	....			1	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
	Donegal		13	12	0	0	....			12	0	0	3	10	0	24	0	0	15	10	0	3	0	0	6	5	0
	Dromore		28	15	0	0	....			1	6	8	1	1	0	16	6	8	16	1	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
	Dublin		14	28	5	0	....			1	8	0	0	14	7	29	13	0	40	14	7	....			12	0	0
	Fairview	G. Lillie	38	50	0	0	....			3	10	0	3	6	0	53	10	0	53	6	0	25	0	0	25	0	0
	Garvagh		100	70	0	0	....			4	0	0	3	0	0	74	0	0	73	0	0	....			3	2	6
	Grange	W. S. Ferguson	50	32	0	0	....			3	16	10	3	8	6	35	16	10	43	8	6	25	0	0	25	0	0
	Larne		25	45	0	0	.....			1	7	1½	1	8	0	46	7	1½	41	8	0	28	15	0	37	1	8
	Lisdonnan		9	6	0	0	....			0	10	0	0	9	6	6	10	0	6	9	6	6	0	0	6	0	0
	Liverpool		23	78	12	3	....			2	10	0	2	0	0	81	2	0	77	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0
	Magherafelt	I. Thompson	24	10	0	0	....			2	0	0	2	0	0	12	0	0	12	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0
	Mulvin		38	65	0	0	....			4	18	0	4	14	0	69	18	0	64	14	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
	Newtownards	R. Allen	67	70	0	0	Manse.			11	13	6	8	8	4	81	13	6	78	8	4	20	0	0	20	0	0
	Ringrash	T. Boyd	75	50	0	0	1	0	0	4	9	4	1	15	7	55	9	4	51	15	7	30	0	0	15	0	0
	Stranorlar	R. M'Farlane	75	65	0	0	2	0	0	8	13	0	3	0	0	75	13	0	63	0	0	36	11	8	44	3	8

Home Mission Account for year ending 30th June, 1874.

Dr.			
To Balance, 1st July, 1873	£29	5	9
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation	20	0	0
" Annuity bequeathed by Mr. Joseph Clarke	2	0	0
" Interest on U. S. Bond	6	1	7
" Donation from Mr. Robert Reid, Loughgall	1	0	0
" Ballesmills	4	10	0
" Ballenon	4	1	2
" Do. Second Collection	1	16	5½
" Ballyclare	8	12	8
" Do. Society Box	1	11	0
" Ballylaggan	6	0	0
" Do. Second Collection	2	13	0
" Do. Juv. Mis. Society	2	0	0
" Ballylane	5	1	0
" Do. Second Collection	0	15	8
" Belfast	7	4	6
" " Juv. Mis. Society	42	15	6
" Bready	7	4	0
" Barnesville, N.B.	3	0	0
" Ballibay	6	5	0
" Do., Thank Offering from Mr. Thomas Henry	6	0	0
" Coleraine	3	8	9
" Do. Second Collection	3	8	5
" Cloughmills	1	0	0
" Convoy	1	10	0
" Drimbolg	6	5	0
" Do. Second Collection	3	0	0
" Dervock and Ballymoney	5	14	0
" Donegal	2	0	0
" Do. Collected by Miss Brigham	5	0	0
" Do. Donation from Miss King	5	0	0
" Dromore	1	6	8
" Dublin	1	8	0
" Fairview	3	10	0
" Faughan	4	17	0
" Garvagh	4	0	0
" Grange	2	15	0
" Do. Second Collection	1	1	10
" Geelong Sabbath School Children	4	1	7
" Kellswater	10	15	4
" Do. Ballymena Society Box	1	4	8
" " Legacy of Mrs. M'Millan	5	0	0
" Kilraughts	6	2	3
" Do. Second Collection	3	3	1
" Knockbracken	8	10	0
" Do. Second Collection	2	10	0
" Do. Legacy of Mrs. M. Chancellor	50	0	0
" Killinchy	2	0	0
" Do. Second Collection	0	10	0
" Larne	1	7	1½
" Lisdonnan	0	10	0
" Loughbrickland	2	13	8
" Liverpool	2	10	0
" Londonderry	10	0	0
" Do. Second Collection	10	0	0
" Littleton Society, Maine, U.S.	2	0	0
	£340	19	8

Dr. Brought forward,	£340	19	8
To Magherafelt	2	0	0
" Mulvin	1	7	0
" " Missionary Box	0	18	0
" " Aldohill Society Box	0	13	0
" " Miss Adams's Donation	2	0	0
" Newry	4	10	0
" Newtownards	2	14	9
" " Second Collection	0	15	0
" " Juvenile Missionary Society	8	3	9
" Newtownlimavady	2	12	0
" Rathfriland	7	0	0
" " A Friend to Missions	2	0	0
" " Juv. Mis. Society	2	0	0
" " Bequest of Mrs. M'Kee	16	13	4
" Ringrash	2	6	0
" " Second Collection	1	11	4
" " Collected by Mrs. Pollock	0	12	0
" Stranorlar	3	0	0
" " Second Collection	2	18	0
" " Rev. R. A. M'Farlane	1	0	0
" " Sabbath School Mission Box	1	5	0
" " Messrs. J. & R. A. Cunningham's Box	0	10	0
" St. John, N.B.	2	12	9
" Rev. Dr. Martin's Donation	2	10	0
	£417	11	7

Cr.			
By Ballyclare	£25	0	0
" Ballylane	20	0	0
" Bushmills	3	15	0
" Cloughmills	5	0	0
" Donegal	3	0	0
" Dromore	5	0	0
" Fairview	25	0	0
" Grange	25	0	0
" Larne	28	15	0
" Lisdonnan	6	0	0
" Liverpool	25	0	0
" Magherafelt	10	0	0
" Mulvin	5	0	0
" Newtownards	20	0	0
" Ringrash	30	0	0
" Stranorlar	36	11	8
" Invested Mrs. M'Kee's Bequest	16	13	4
" " Mrs. M. Chancellor's Bequest	50	0	0
" " Mrs. M'Millan's do.	5	0	0
" Expenses of Deputations on Ministerial Support	7	14	10
" Printing Report	2	10	0
" Printing Appeal on Ministerial Support	2	10	0
" Travelling and Secretary's Expenses	3	9	5
" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
" Balance on hand, 1st July, 1874	55	12	4
	£417	11	7

Colonial Mission Account for the Year ending 30th June, 1874.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To balance as per last report	15	7	11½
,, Bailliesmills ..	2	0	0
,, Ballybay ..	3	16	6
,, Belfast ..	5	7	10
,, Ballylaggan (including 10s from a Friend to Missions, 10s from Mr. N. Blair, £1 from Juv. Miss. Association) ..	5	12	0
,, Ball money and Dervock	6	0	0
,, Barnesville, N.B. ..	6	0	0
,, Ballenon ..	2	0	0
,, Ballyclare ..			
,, Ballylane ..	2	8	0
,, Bready ..	3	18	2
,, Coleraine ..	2	6	10½
,, Cloughmills ..	0	16	0
,, Cornwallis, N.S. (2) ..	4	1	1½
,, Convoy ..	1	10	0
,, Drimbolg ..	3	0	0
,, Dromore ..	1	0	0
,, Donegal ..	2	0	0
,, Dublin ..	0	16	8
,, Fairview ..	0	18	5
,, Faughan ..	3	9	7
,, Garvagh ..	1	0	0
,, Grange ..	0	17	0
,, Horton, N S. ..			
,, Kellswater ..	8	0	0
,, Killinchy ..	1	0	0
,, Kilroughts ..	5	0	2
,, Knockbracken ..	7	10	0
,, Lurne ..	0	16	0
,, Lisdonnan ..			
,, Londonderry ..	10	0	0
,, Loughbrickland ..	2	1	5
,, Mulvin ..	1	1	0
,, Magherafelt ..			
,, Newry ..	2	1	0
,, Newtownards ..	1	14	3
,, Newtownlimavady ..	2	13	2
,, Rathfriland (including £2 from Miss. Assoc.)	6	5	6
,, Ringrash ..	1	14	8
,, Stranorlar ..	2	10	6
,, St. John, N.B. ..	4	0	0
,, Littleton, Maine ..	2	0	0
,, Wilmot ..	4	0	0
,, Dr. Martin's Annual Sub.	1	10	0
,, Proportion Mrs. M'Kee's Legacy ..	16	13	4
,, Legacy of Mrs. M'Millan	5	0	0
,, Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	20	0	0
,, Belfast Miss. Assoc. ..	20	12	2
	£200	19	3½

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Rev. A. M. Moore's Life Policy ..	6	2	6
,, Proportion of Travelling Expenses of Commission, November and March	2	5	8
,, Printing Report in Aug. *Covenanter*, (1873) ..	2	10	0
,, Secretary's Expenses ..	1	16	0
,, Mr. Sommerville's Ann'l Grant ..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Stavely's ditto ..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Lawson's ditto ..	30	0	0
,, Mr. Stewart's ditto ..	30	0	0
,, Periodicals ..	2	0	0
,, Mr. Somerville's donation	10	0	0
,, Mr. A. M'L. Stavely's donation ..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Lawson's donation ..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Stewart's donation ..	10	0	0
,, Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
,, Mr. Moore's donation ..	20	0	0
,, Balance on hand, 7th July, 1874 ..	45	5	1½
	£200	19	3½

Hall and Synod Fund in Account with the Secretary, 1873-74.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Congregational Collections, viz :—			
" Ballies mills	1	10	0
" Ballenon	1	12	0
" Ballybay	2	8	0
" Ballyclare	2	6	3
" Ballylaggan (including £1 from Juv. Missionary Association)	3	8	0
" Ballylan	2	1	3
" Barnesville, N.B.			
" Belfast	5	16	6
" Bready	4	1	0
" Cloughmills	0	12	0
" Coleraine	2	0	0
" Convoy			
" Cornwallis, N.S.			
" Derryock and Ballymoney	4	10	0
" Donegal			
" Drimbolg	2	2	0
" Dromore	1	0	0
" Dublin	0	16	4
" Fairview	0	17	0
" Faughan	2	1	8
" Garvagh	1	8	0
" Grange	0	12	0
" Horton, N.S.			
" Kellswater	7	0	0
" Killinchy	1	4	9
" Kilraughts	3	18	0
" Knockbracken	7	0	0
" Lurne	1	1	0
" Lisdonnan			
" Liverpool			
" Londonderry	11	0	0
" Loughbrickland	1	17	6
" Magheralelt			
" Mulvin	1	0	0
" Newry	2	0	0
" Newtownards	1	4	5
" Newtownlimavady	1	19	5
" Rathfriland	3	1	10
" Ringrash	1	13	1
" St. John, N B. (Proportion of Special Collection)	2	0	0
" Stranorlar	2	0	9
" Wilmot, N.S.			
To Publication Fund, by order of Synod	2	0	10
" Bequest. H. Milligan for Bursaries	5	0	0
" Bequest of late Joseph Clarke	1	0	0
" Donation of Dr. Martin, Latakia	2	0	0
" Bequest of the late Mrs. Chancellor, Dundonald	10	0	0
	£107	12	7

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Balance from last year's Account	2	0	10
" Salaries of Professors	80	0	0
" Proportion Travelling Expenses of Members of Commission	2	5	8
" Travelling Expenses at Meeting of Committee for examining Mr. Scott	0	10	0
" Printing Report of Hall	2	10	0
" Printing Order of Business at Synod	0	4	0
" Clerk of Synod	10	0	0
" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
" Travelling Expenses of Deputation to Scotland	2	15	0
" Circulars, Postages, &c.	0	13	5
" Balance on hand	5	13	8
	£107	18	7

N.B.—Mr. Chancellor's legacy has been given with a request that it be invested. Deducting this, there is a balance *against* the Fund of £4 6s 4d.

7th July, 1874.

R. NEVIN.

Irish Mission Account in relation to Dublin Congregation.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of last year's Account ..	153	11	11	By Irish Mission's share in supplying Dublin—28 Sabbaths ..	28	0	0
,, Cornwallis Contribution through Mr. Somerville and Mr. Brown, £1 11 11				,, Cost of Orders ..	0	2	4
,, Cost of Order, 0 0 3—	1	11	8	,, Irish Mission's share of printing Reports ..	2	10	0
,, Interest ..	5	8	10	,, Travelling Expenses to Commission in Nov. ..	1	4	5
				,, Commission in March ..	1	1	3
				,, Balance	127	14	5
	£160	12	5		£160	12	5

Account of Publication Fund.

Dr.					
To Balance at last statement	£41	2	0½		
,, Received for Publications	4	5	8	— £45	7 8½
Cr.					
By Hall and Synod Fund, as ordered ..	£2	0	10		
,, Printing proposed addition to Testimony ..	2	9	6		
,, Postages, &c.	0	12	5	— £5	2 9
To Balance to new Account				£40	4 11½

7th July, 1874. R. NEVIN.

General Financial Statement.

AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1873	£2514	13	0	Paid grant to Rev. J. A. Smyth	£15	0	0
Donation of Miss Helena Miller, Ballyclare,	1	0	0	" " Rev. Saml. Simms	30	0	0
				" Expenses	0	4	0
Donation of Mrs. M'Trustey	1	0	0	Balance at Credit of the Fund	2611	14	0
Interest for year	140	5	0				
	£2656	18	0		£2656	18	0

MR. HENRY'S DONATION.

Balance at Synod of 1873	£1000	0	0	Paid to Home Mission	£20	0	0
Interest on Investments	60	2	6	" Colonial Mission	20	0	0
				" Foreign & Jewish Mission	20	0	0
				" Expenses	0	2	6
				Balance at Credit of this Fund	1000	0	0
	£1060	2	6		£1060	2	6

BICENTENARY FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1873	£541	3	2	Paid Expenses	£0	1	6
Interest for year	31	7	3	Balance at Credit of this Fund	572	8	11
	£572	10	5		£572	10	5

EDUCATION FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1873	£558	13	9	Paid Grant to Theological Hall Library	£15	0	0
Repaid by Rev. Dr. Martin	8	0	0	" Expenses	0	1	6
Interest for year	31	2	6	Balance at Credit of this Fund	582	14	9
	£597	16	3		£597	16	3

AUSTRALIAN FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1873	£232	0	0	Paid Expenses	£0	1	6
Interest for year	13	1	6	Balance at Credit of this Fund	245	0	0
	£245	1	6		£245	1	6

SCOTT BEQUEST.

Amount paid over by Executors	£321	18	1	Paid Expenses,	£0	0	10
Bank Interest—less Expenses	2	10	6	Balance at credit of this fund,	329	17	9
Interest since invested	5	10	0				
	£329	18	7		£329	18	7

SUMMARY.

Present Balance of Aged Ministers' Fund	£2611	14	0	Securities held by Trustees:—			
Mr. Henry's Donation Fund	1000	0	0	Bonds	£3442	0	0
Bicentenary Fund	572	8	11	Mortgages	1700	0	0
Education Fund	582	14	9	With Building Society, Bank, and Teasurer	199	15	5
Australian Fund	245	0	0				
Scott Bequest Fund	329	17	9				
	£5341	14	5		£5341	15	5

Antrim, June 9, 1874.

SAMUEL CLUGSTON, Treasurer.

We have examined this Financial Statement, with the Vouchers and Securities, and find all to be correct.

12th June, 1874.

JAMES REYNOLDS.
SAMUEL AIKIN.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States of North America.

DEAR BRETHREN—Since we last had the pleasure of addressing you, we have had to mourn the removal of two of our ministers by death. One of these, the Rev. Thomas Cleland, was only in the 29th year of his age, and had been settled in the congregation left vacant by the removal of the Rev. James Kennedy to New York, but for two years and two months. In that brief space of time he had won the affections of his people in no ordinary degree by his labours among them. All seemed happy and full of promise. Yet it pleased God to take him to Himself on the 8th of August last, after an illness of a few days. Such a dispensation of Divine providence seems mysterious to us, but God knows how to bring good out of what appears to us only evil. The other was the Rev. Jas. A. Smyth, of Drimbolg, who had attained the advanced age of 73 years, and had been engaged in preaching the Gospel for nearly half a century. He came to the grave, like a shock of corn fully ripe, on the 29th of December. One minister has been installed during the past year, in a congregation which never had a pastor of its own before.

For the first time in the twenty years it has been in existence, our Theological Hall has been without a student. It is to be feared that young men are deterred from contemplating the ministry by the apprehension of the want of a competent support, especially since the cost of living has been so much enhanced of late years. A spirit of greater self-sacrifice on the part of our young men, and of increased liberality on the part of the people, will, it is hoped, effectually counteract this fear; and, in any case, we may well confide that our covenant God will never leave Himself without witnesses.

Dr. Metheny's presence and addresses excited great interest in the few places he was able to visit, and were productive of much good. Had it been compatible with his duties and engagements to visit a number of other places, it would, doubtless, have stimulated a missionary spirit, and led to good results in these also. We are happy to know that the whole missionary party have reached the sphere of their labours in safety and with recruited energies. You are aware, we presume, that Dr. Martin, after a severe illness, has been travelling of late southward in Palestine, by advice. We hope to hear shortly of his return to Latakia, greatly renovated in health and strength.

The case of the three persecuted teachers has moved the Church here very strongly. While it is sad to think of the sufferings to

which they and their families have been subjected, it is exceedingly gratifying, on the other hand, to find that Divine grace has sustained them hitherto amid all their fiery trials, and enabled them to witness a good confession. Surely the prayers of many on both sides of the Atlantic will be heard on their behalf. In any event, we may trust that this ebullition of Moslem fanaticism and hatred of the truth will be overruled for the furtherance of the Gospel in that benighted region where our missionaries are labouring.

We are most happy to hear of the prosperity of Geneva College, and of your success in other departments of work.

An earnest disposition to inquire respecting our distinctive principles and position has been manifested in some unexpected quarters of these lands of late. As "the time of the end" draws nearer, we may expect that a more decided stand will be taken both for and against the grand doctrine of Messiah's Headship over the nations, and its counterpart and corollary, the duty of nations to acknowledge His claims upon their subjection to Him and obedience to His revealed will as the supreme standard by which all the relations of men should be regulated. The choice must be made by men on which side they shall be. But great is the truth, and it must at last prevail, for the God of truth is on its side, and He has declared that so it shall be.

With fraternal greetings,

On behalf of Synod,

R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

DEAR BRETHREN—Your letter of the 20th ultimo has been heard by us with great pleasure, and we assure you of the high value which we attach to this annual interchange of greetings and prayers. The two deaths which have occurred during the year in your ministry we had already remarked, with especial regret for the loss of the young brother so unexpectedly cut down in the beginning of his usefulness. We share your regret in the temporary suspension of your Theological Hall, and join our prayers with yours that the vacant seats may be speedily occupied by earnest and able men, aspiring to the peculiar privileges, honours, and rewards of the ministry of the Gospel. We are deeply moved by the assurance which you give that your prayers ascend without ceasing on behalf of the suffering prisoners connected with the Mission in Syria. No single event in the history of the Mission has ever called forth such fervent and prolonged supplication among us; and these prayers, joined together with yours, encourage us to hope for their speedy deliverance, and that, in any event, it will fall out to the furtherance of the Gospel. We are sincerely thankful that it

is our privilege to work together in this interesting field. Our Missionaries bear emphatic testimony to the pleasure which they find in Dr. Martin's society, and to the benefits which this fellowship in labour has already yielded. Surely the promise which secures an answer to prayers in which two disciples agree can be pleaded with especial confidence, when two Churches in distant lands unite their gifts, labours, and supplications in behalf of the same benighted and perishing people.

We have much to record concerning the past year, which is ground for profound thankfulness to God. No death has occurred in the ministry. Three licentiates have been ordained and installed in pastoral charges. And Dr. David Metheny, Medical Missionary to Syria, has been ordained to the ministry, increasing the number of our ministers to ninety-five. Four students of Theology have been licensed to preach, and three new congregations have been organized, which, accounting for one which has been disorganized, increases the whole number of congregations to one hundred and five.

No general or remarkable revival of religion has taken place among us, but we have evidence of the presence of the Spirit with us in all our labours. All the enterprises of the Church have been sustained with increased liberality. The sojourn of Dr. Metheny and family, and Miss Crawford, among us, has deepened the interest felt in our Foreign Mission, and the Board has been instructed to secure and send out two additional female teachers at an early day. The late Dr. Wm. H. Yates, of London, and his wife have placed under our care a Mission station, privately sustained for many years, at the mouth of the Orontes, and Mrs. Yates proposes to contribute £300 per annum for the support of teachers and a native pastor of that place.

Our Theological Seminary has been installed, during the past year, in a spacious and commodious building—the fruits of our thank-offerings in connection with our recent act of covenanting. Nineteen students have been in attendance during the last term. Geneva College, our literary institution, has prospered beyond the expectation of its friends. The whole number of students during the present academic year has been one hundred and seventy. This large increase has rendered necessary the appointment of an additional professor, and Synod has just chosen the late moderator, Rev. J. M'Cracken, for that position.

Two educated men of colour—Mr. G. M. Elliott, a student of theology, and Mr. Lewis Johnson, who has finished his studies, and is now recommended for ordination—are labouring at Selma, Alabama, among the freedmen.

An earnest desire has been expressed at this meeting of Synod for the establishment of a Mission among the Indians, and special

opportunities are afforded for work in this field under the present distinctly Christian policy of our Government toward this injured race. The Board of Home Missions is directed to take the proposal into consideration.

The work of National Reform progresses with steadily-increasing power. The Rev. D. M'Alister, of this Synod, has laboured in this cause throughout the year, and a great multitude of earnest helpers, from all Christian Churches, has been enlisted in the work. Many of these are men of great ability and high social position. The last National Convention numbered over one thousand members, and most of these were delegates from auxiliary societies or public assemblies gathered in promotion of the movement.

In all these things we acknowledge the good hand of our God upon us, and pray that He would enable us, with genuine humility, to ascribe the praise to Him. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

We are reminded that it is now exactly one hundred years since the Rev. Messrs. Cuthbertson, Linn, and Dobbin united in forming the first Reformed Presbytery on American soil. These ministers united, a few years later, with the ministers of the Associate Presbyterian Church, in forming the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Church was left, in consequence, without a presbyterial organization for twenty-four years. Although this year is, therefore, the centenary of the first organization of our Church, it is only the seventy-sixth year of her continuous existence.

A proposal to modify our Fourth Term of Communion so as to include an acknowledgment of our recent act of covenant renovation has been before the present meeting of Synod. While the propriety and necessity of this change have been distinctly recognized, it has been deemed advisable to postpone it until the next meeting of Synod.

The most remarkable religious event in our country during the past year has been the revival of sentiment and conviction in behalf of Temperance. The spontaneous and simultaneous character of the movement, the means by which, in the main, it has been promoted, and the gratifying success which has attended it, indicate the presence and working of the Spirit of God.

Synod has appointed Mr. John Caldwell, ruling elder, a delegate to your Synod at its approaching session.

Wishing, dear brethren, that peace may be within the walls, and prosperity in all the palaces of your Zion, we remain as ever, your companions in the covenants of the Church, and the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

JOHN GALBRAITH, *Moderator.*
J. R. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*

Philadelphia, June 3, 1874.